SANDWELL
CHRONICLE

Thursday, May 22, 2014 | Read by more than 68,600 people | Price when sold 50p

Joy Julie noted

Smethwick's own hailed by academy

See Page 3

Shaving up

Barber's cut price to help good causes

See Page 8

Craig's return

Player's boinging back to the Baggies

See Page 60

ROLLING PIN RAIDER JAILED

Report by Alex Ross

A VIOLENT robber has been jailed for 13 years after attacking a father with a rolling pin in front of his horrified teenage daughter.

However, the attack seemed to be an apparent case of mistaken identity. Nigel Collins tried posing as a police officer to trick his way inside the house in Smethwick, but was refused entry.

He then clambered through an open window after the resident became suspicious and shut the front door.

The 49-year-old resident was left with a head wound needing stitches after after being struck with a rolling pin picked up from a kitchen surface.

Collins and two accomplices fled with £300 cash and a mobile phone from the house in Waterloo Road.

Violence – Nigel Collins

Arrested

They were caught after a bag they dropped in the back garden was found to contain a glove with Collins' DNA on it. The 25-year-old was traced to an address in Whitehall Road, Handsworth. He was arrested at the address on the morning of March 6.

Collins was jailed at Wolverhampton Crown Court after admitting robbery and attempted GBH.

Dc Darren Brown said: "The homeowner suffered a nasty head wound that required several stitches whilst his 18-year-old daughter, though she wasn't hurt, was present during the ordeal which lasted around 10 minutes. He was dragged upstairs by the men who demanded cash and valuables – but it appears they made a mistake and targeted the wrong property, even though we understand Collins did a reccy of the location earlier in the afternoon.

Collins, from Tewpark Road in Handsworth, and two other men arrived at the victim's home before 7.30pm on February 20 and tried convincing the homeowner they were conducting local enquiries.

Dc Brown, added: "The victim did exactly the right thing. He asked questions through a locked door, as he doubted they were genuine officers. We'd always urge residents to make checks against unsolicited callers. Don't be afraid to leave them waiting whilst you phone the organisation they claim to be representing."

A second man is currently on police bail on suspicion of being involved.

Active Olive dances on to hit 100

Surrounded by flowers great-grandmother of four, Olive Taylor, from West Bromwich, who is celebrating her 100th birthday

SHE was a long-distance lorry driver, was sacked from a job for teaching rock 'n' roll dancing, had to be forced to stop working at the age of 78, and married three times.

And now Olive Taylor has celebrated her 100th birthday.

The sprightly pensioner had a special party to celebrate the milestone at her home in West Bromwich, on Friday with all of her friends, family and even Deputy Mayor of Sandwell Councillor Barbara Price.

Olive, who has three children, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, was born to Harriet and Harry in West Bromwich on May 16, 1914, but was raised by her grandmother Ellen after Harriet died in the flu epidemic of 1918, while father Harry pitched in.

She married first husband Tom Bonham at 17 and lived in Dora Road, West Bromwich, and had her three children between 1931 and 1940.

Youngest daughter Olive Johnson, now 73, said: "She started driving during the war, and when it finished she ended up driving quite big lorries. I'm not sure she ever took her licence."

After splitting up from Tom she met second husband George Elliott while driving lorries for a company called Lawleys, where she worked well into her 60s, then after George's death she met and married Jack Taylor, her third husband, who passed away around 15 years ago.

Active Olive was also a dance fanatic, competing in ballroom first with Tom and then against him after he got a new partner – never to be beaten by him. She also taught netball and needlework as well as ballroom dancing at the former George Salter school - but got the sack after she was caught teaching her students rock 'n' roll dancing instead.

Suicide rate drops below UK average

SUICIDE rates in local authorities across the Black Country have fallen below the national average, new figures show. However, Sandwell still leads the way in the region, with 64 people taking their own lives between 2010 and 2012.

Figures released by the Office for National Statistics show the number of suicides in all four authorities in the region was below the national average of 11.6 deaths per 100,000 population.

Walsall showed the lowest average rate in the Black Country, with a total of 45 suicides over the period equating to a rate of 6.9 per 100,000 population.

Sandwell's rate is equal to 10.8 per 100,000.

In Dudley there were 61 recorded suicides, although the overall rate was still well below the national average at 7.9.

A total of 56 people committed suicide in Wolverhampton between 2010 and 2012, a rate of 9.2 per 100,000 population.

It was also revealed that in 2012 male suicide rates were more than three times higher than the female equivalent, recording a rate of18.2 compared with 5.2 female deaths per 100,000 population. The highest suicide rate was among men aged 40 to 44.

Staff cleared as blaze hits

FOUR workers were evacuated after machinery at a factory caught on fire.

Firefighters were called to Cab Automotive on the Vaughan Trading Estate in Tipton.

A hydraulic press in the machinery room at the premises had over heated sparking the blaze.

Crews from Tipton and Dudley arrived at around 11am on Saturday and were able to quickly extinguish the blaze which was contained to the machine room.

No-one was injured.

Hoarding battle by head with new plan

THE headteacher of a school near the site earmarked for a 120ft advertising hoarding by the M6 has vowed to fight the plans.

Developer St Francis Group and Opus Land want to build what it has dubbed the Sandwell Gateway.

It would be situated on land off Wood Green Road, Wednesbury, by junction nine of the motorway – and this is the third application for a hoarding in that vicinity received by Sandwell Council since 2008.

The bottom of the panels would sit 55ft off ground level, so it will be around 120ft high. Pank Patel, headteacher of nearby Wood Green Academy, said he feared the hoarding would be detrimental to teaching.

"This megastructure, if it were to proceed, would be a distraction to teaching and learning, in PE lessons and other lessons, as well and for the local community who use the school most days of the week. We believe this advertising hoarding will distract drivers and seriously compromise the health and safety of students, staff and the local community."

Richard Smith, from Opus Land, said: "We had a public consultation. We have since had an open relationship, in which the school have been able to contact us with their concerns."

Pledge over health site

HEALTH bosses have this week confirmed that they were committed to building a new £9million health centre in Wednesbury within the next three years.

Their comments came amid fears the scheme had been shelved after a planning application was withdrawn.

The long-awaited scheme in High Bullen is due to provide new facilities for users of two GP surgeries in the town, Malling Health and The Spires.

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Fall victim family's heartbreak

A HEARTBROKEN husband who switched off his wife's life support machine found out three days later she was still alive when he called the hospital to make funeral arrangements.

Malcolm Greenhill says he was told his wife Marilyn would 'only live for a couple of minutes' after her machine was switched off at Sandwell Hospital. But the family was stunned to discover three days later that the 65-year-old grandmother had continued to breathe unaided and was still alive on the ward.

At an inquest into her death, Mr Greenhill told of the family's distress when they realised Mrs Greenhill had been left on her own over the Bank Holiday. He said it had been like 'grieving for her twice'.

Mrs Greenhill had suffered bleeding to the brain when she fell down the stairs at her home in West Bromwich on May 3. Doctors told Mr Greenhill nothing could be done to save his wife of 41 years and on medical advice he made the heartbreaking decision to turn off her machine on May 3.

After discovering their mother was still alive, her two children rushed back to the hospital on May 6 and stayed at her bedside until Mrs Greenhill died at 7pm on May 7.

Adjourning the inquest for three months, Assistant Coroner Mr Angus Smillie said: "It would be inappropriate of me to conclude the inquest today because of the unusual circumstances." A 'thorough' investigation has since been pledged by hospital chiefs.

One-man crimewave armed robber jailed

AN ARMED robber who launched a horrifying one-man crimewave has started a 14-year jail sentence this week.

William Finch struck six times in two months pocketing more than £3,500 cash after threatening to kill terrified staff at two bingo halls, a building society, a bookmakers and a convenience store in the Black Country.

Jailed – William Finch

The 57-year-old was also seen to flee empty-handed at the wheel of a BMW from an attempted raid on a post office after being outwitted by the husband and wife who run the business.

The mystery robber, who wore either a balaclava or had a scarf pulled across his face while clutching what appeared to be a sawn-off shotgun in a bag, was finally unmasked after a CCTV picture of the culprit was published in the Express & Star.

A witness who caught a glimpse of his face through a gap in the scarf thought his skin might have been black.

Readers provided detectives with important information and officers raided the flat in Bilston Lane, Willenhall where Finch lived alone.

A BMW that matched the getaway vehicle used by the robber in the bungled post office raid was in the car park at the foot of the block with a set of latex gloves in the vehicle. It was registered to Finch. A pot of face paint that could have been used to 'black up' was discovered in the flat along with a fake moustache.

He first targeted the West Bromwich Building society branch in Market Place, Wednesbury where he escaped with around £1,000 on August 9 last year after walking in armed with the imitation gun and passed a note to a woman cashier telling her to fill a bag with at least £5,000..

Other raids included one at just before 9pm on September 17 at Coral bookmakers in Highfields Road, Bradley, where staff were threatened with what they assumed to be a gun, with £530 stolen. He grabbed a further £800 thrown at him by shocked staff at Mecca Bingo Hall on Spring Vale Industrial Park, Bilston after he shouted 'give me money or I will shoot you' on September 23.

Finch, who had previous convictions for shoplifting and assault, consistently denied being involved in any of the raids. He pleaded not guilty to all offences but a jury convicted him of five robberies, an attempted robbery and six counts of possessing an imitation firearm after a trial at Wolverhampton Crown Court and was jailed for 14 years by Judge Peter Barrie.

The divorced, jobless former pub landlord was in debt and turned to armed robbery in a desperate bid to get cash to fund his poker habit. All the money he stole was lost at the casinos where he was a regular.

Two pedestrians hit by car

Police officers in West Bromwich High Street after two pedestrians were injured

THIS is the scene of the rush-hour crash that saw two men taken to hospital with serious injuries after being hit by a car.

Witnesses spoke of their shock after the crash on Tuesday evening, which saw passers-by run to the aid of the injured pedestrians in West Bromwich High Street.

One of the men suffered cardiac arrest at the scene and was taken to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham after paramedics restarted his heart and he was given anaesthetic. The other man, believed to be in his 30s, suffered fractures to his arm and leg. Calum Hogg, 29, from West Bromwich said: "I heard a bang, but I had my earphones in and thought it was the music.

"It was only when I saw people rushing down the road I realised it was bad." Another passer-by added: "This is a busy road with a lot of people crossing. It can be dangerous." Members of the public rushed to help and an off-duty trainee paramedic gave CPR to the man in cardiac arrest before paramedics and a doctor arrived.

Lock-up for man in raids by gang

A MAN of 'positive good character' who was part of a masked gang that carried out a 'campaign' of burglaries in the area has been jailed for two years.

Their victims included a 90-year-old Rowley Regis man who was disturbed by the gang before they got away with £700 worth of property.

While there were two young children present when they attacked another property in West Bromwich.

Judge Michael Dudley told Craig Tucker, aged 26, who wiped away a tear as he was sent into custody, saying: "You were persuaded, against your better judgement, to join this gang after being introduced to hard drugs."

Tucker, of Hartlebury Road, Oldbury, admitted two burglary charges and he asked for four other similar offences to be taken into consideration at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Mr Phillip Beardwell, prosecuting, said the gang got away with more than £1,300 worth of property from a house in Borough Crescent and £2,500 from a house in Thurston Crescent – both in Oldbury.

Mr Andrew Jackson, defending, said drugs became a problem for Tucker.

Broker helps cancer cause

A CRADLEY Heath-based classic car insurance broker has raised vital funds in aid of the Teenage Cancer Trust. Footman James presented a cheque totalling £432.31 to Ian Macaulay, founding member of The New Unnamed Classic Car Group, at its head office.

Mr Macaulay's group ran its inaugural car show at the end of last month in aid of the Teenage Cancer Trust.

The chosen charity is close to the heart of one of the group's members whose niece, Imogen Westwood, was recently diagnosed with Ewing's sarcoma.

Firm awarded

A WALSALL company has won an international award in recognition of its commitment to workplace health and safety. Vehicle auction firm BCA Walsall in Green Lane, Leamore, was handed the 2014 International Safety Award from the British Safety Council.

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£100,000 grant is a life saver for group

THE future of a community orchestra has been secured thanks to a £100,000 grant from the Arts Council.

Last year the future of The People's Orchestra, in West Bromwich, was uncertain after it had to move out of its office and concert venue at The Public when it was closed.

But it has now been announced by the Arts Council England that it will be the recipient of a £100,000 grant.

Co-founder Sarah Marshall said: "This is fantastic news for the orchestra and we can push on with an exciting artistic programme.

"As an amateur orchestra, run solely by volunteers, the move from The Public was very disruptive and our existence has been very hand-to-mouth ever since."

The grant from Arts Council England is front-loaded, with £90,000 due in the first 13 months, and allows The People's Orchestra to employ two essential members of staff, a volunteer manager and a concert manager.

Marketing director and co-founder Andy Sinclair said: "The orchestra could not survive without the tremendous efforts of its volunteers."

Food outlet back open

A CHICKEN takeaway that was forced to close for two days because of filthy conditions has reopened.

Dixi Chicken in Market Place, Great Bridge, was served with a hygiene emergency prohibition notice last Tuesday, following a complaint. Environmental health officers found the premises in a filthy condition, with bags of rubbish inside and outside and no hot running water.

The case was taken to Sandwell Magistrates Court on Friday and owner Shafiq Rehman was ordered to pay £700 costs. Mr Rehman was unavailable for comment.

Sponsors wanted

SPONSORS are wanted to help create a £180,000 indoor skate park in Walsall.

Ridaz Paradise is looking to build the park in the town centre.

It is hoping to raise funds through grants and donations. Visit www.facebook.com/RidazParadise

Criminal behind £1m car racket is jailed

Shanwaz Khan

A cocky criminal behind a £1million car theft racket has been jailed – after being spotted by police driving a sports car with a number plate spelling out 'stolen'.

Shanwaz Khan's illegal operation got noticed by police when seen in a Audi RS4 with the personalised number plate of S20LUN in a convoy of stolen Mercedes in Birmingham.

Officers discovered the 30-year-old was behind a ring that stole and stripped down cars at industrial units, including in Dudley and Tipton, to sell on as parts on eBay. A court heard, in total police linked the crook to more than 80 vehicle thefts and violent car-jackings during 2012 - valued at £1.1 million.

Khan, of Marsh Lane, Erdington, was jailed for seven years at Birmingham Crown Court after admitted conspiracy to commit burglary and handle stolen goods.

His brother Wajid Khan, 24, of Brookvale Road, Erdington, and cousin Seyed Khan, 32, of Marsh Lane, received 30-month prison sentences after admitting conspiracy to handle stolen goods.

Fellow conspirators Ross and Matthew Dunham, aged 21 and 24, of Charter Avenue, Canley, Coventry, were jailed for five years and 39 months respectively after admitting conspiracy to commit burglaries.

Detective Constable Mo Azir, said: "The brazen attitude of Shanwaz Khan was typified by his personalised number plate.

"The scale of their criminal operation was vast and they showed a complete disregard to the trail of destruction and misery left behind to victims of these offences."

After Shanwaz Khan was spotted with the number plate in March in 2012, a six-month investigation by police led officers to the four other group members.

The gang were linked to 82 vehicle thefts during 2012.

They included a petrol station car-jacking at the Total garage in Kingsbury Road, Erdington, on August 29 .

£600,000 boost to help improve lives of elderly

SIX areas will benefit from £100,000 each as part of a pilot project to help elderly people in Sandwell.

Cash grants are being made available to voluntary and community groups in the borough as part of the scheme to help older residents living in the area. Volunteers could put on exercise classes and offer advice on how to cope with extreme weather.

Under the project extra information could also be made available to point people to lifestyle services such as help to stop smoking and lose weight, and how to reduce the likelihood of slips, trips and falls.

The areas chosen to take part in the scheme are Great Barr with the Yew Tree estate, West Bromwich Centre as well as Greets Green and Lyng, Tipton Green including Princes End and Great Bridge, Oldbury and Langley, Tividale and Rowley Regis, and Blackheath, Cradley Heath and Old Hill.

The service will commence with a one year pilot, starting in September, with options to extend for six or 12 months to enable reviews on how it is going.

The organisations being considered to take part in the scheme are those already delivering services in Sandwell, which are non-Governmental, and who have local bases with locally-advertised telephone numbers.David Stevens, Sandwell Council's director of adult social care said: "The aim is to help people live healthier lives longer and to remain independent in their own homes."

Organisations wishing to be considered are being invited by the council to request an application pack from adult_procurement@sandwell.gov.uk. The closing date for applications is noon on Friday, June 13.

MP backing for carers week event

AN MP has pledged his support to carers across Sandwell as part of the national awareness campaign Carers Week

To show his support for local carers, John Spellar MP for Warley met with the Carers Week supporter charities in Parliament – including Carers UK, Age UK, Carers Trust, Independent Age, Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie Cancer Care, MS Society and Parkinson's UK.

He said: "Carers make a hugely valuable contribution to society and they need support to carry on the work they do. Without carers the UK would face a £119 billion care bill."

A spokesman said: "By individuals and organisations working together during Carers Week we have a huge opportunity to help thousands of carers and get them support." Events will be taking place across the UK in June, to provide carers with advice, information and support with caring. To find out more about events in Sandwell visit www.carersweek.org

Magical night at Baftas for Julie

Actress Julie Walters with the prestigious Academy Fellowship Award presented to her at the Baftas

SMETHWICK-BORN actress Julie Walters has been celebrating this week, after being presented with the most prestigious honour at the Baftas ceremony on Sunday – an academy fellowship.

Tributes were paid to her long and 'spectacular' career as she was given the final award of the night at the star-studded bash. The 64-year-old star of Educating Rita, Billy Elliot and Acorns Antiques, said: "Thank you, what a career.

"When I told my mother I wanted to be an actress back in 1969, and it's all right I'm not going to go through every year of my career, she said 'she'll be in the gutter before she is 20'. And she was right. But what a gutter. I've shared that gutter with some of the most amazing and talented people without whom I just wouldn't have had a career."

Walters, from Smethwick, was given the award by friend and fellow actress Celia Imrie, who described her as 'a bit of a magician'. Another big winner on the night was ITV drama Broadchurch, which picked up three gongs.

The show, starring Olivia Colman and David Tennant, bagged the best drama gong. Colman won best actress and David Bradley got the best supporting actor award.

Colman fought back the tears as she picked up the best actress award saying: "sorry, not cool." Best actor Sean Harris, who stars in channel four show Southcliffe, also struggled to hold back the emotions as he collected his award.

NEWS in brief

All-female cast in play about 1960s

TICKETS are on sale for a new production featuring an all-female cast from the Black Country.

Charlemont Drama Society is putting the final touches on their 133rd production, Be My Baby, a story of four unmarried teenage girls in the 1960s .

The show will play Friday, June 6, and Saturday, June 7, at Pennyhill Primary School in Hollyhedge Road, West Bromwich, from 7.30pm. Tickets are available on 0121 357 4169 or email hilld28@sky.com.

Puppy walkers sought by police

A NUMBER of important new positions have become available with West Midlands Police – puppy walkers. If you are a responsible adult at home for most of the day, and love dogs, then the role could be for you.

You will need to be able to travel easily to the force's training centre in Balsall Common, and have a secure garden.

If you are interested, contact the West Midlands Police Dogs Unit on 0121 626 8202 between 8am and 4pm, Monday to Friday.

Art is wanted for new exhibition

ENTRIES are wanted for Darlaston Amateur Artists' latest exhibition at Darlaston Library from July 22 to August 16.

To enter, send a stamp addressed envelope to 11 Sandwell Avenue, Wednesbury, WS10 7RH.

Organisers will then send an entry form with a July 5 deadline. There are prizes for the best oil, watercolour, acrylic, pastel and mixed media pieces.

Annual transport show at arboretum

MORE than 500 vehicles are expected to be displayed at the Walsall Classic Car and Transport Show in July.

The event, now in its 24th year, will be at Walsall Arboretum on July 27 from 10.30am to 5pm.

Tickets for adults are £4.50 and £2.50 for children.

Call 01922 643385.

Praise service

ST Lawrence's Church, Church Street, Darlaston, will be holding an informal praise service on May 25 at 6pm. It will focus on the plight of Christians across the across the world. All are welcome.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

OUR changing language. My new jeans from M&S are, according to the label, "Relaxed through the thigh to the opening."

❒❒❒❒❒❒❒❒

DESPITE the sacking of a BBC presenter, the unexpurgated 1932 version of The Sun Has Got His Hat On can still be found online via Google. Mind you, the European Court of Justice now says Google should recognise the "right to be forgotten" and remove search results that members of the public find awkward or embarrassing. We can probably look forward to a golden age when nothing nasty can be found and online searches reveal only nice things: Gordon Brown: finest economist of his generation. Tony Blair: peace-bringer to the Middle East. Adolf Hitler: popular European politician and champion of the toothbrush moustache.

❒❒❒❒❒❒❒❒

ONE snag with the court's ruling on Google is that many of us share the same name. Thus, Google will tell you that "Peter Rhodes is a veteran BBC producer," "Peter Rhodes is a Chartered Psychologist," "Peter Rhodes is a London-based illustrator" and "Peter Rhodes is a waste of ink." Only one of these applies to me (no prizes) but am I entitled to have them all deleted?

❒❒❒❒❒❒❒❒

RICHARD Littlejohn's account of growing up in the 1950s is "Lost World," as though the land we knew 60 years ago has been accidentally mislaid. The truth is that we deliberately left it behind. Why? Because it was rubbish. No-one is forced to live a 2014 lifestyle. If you really want to recreate the magic of the 1950s, remove your central heating and double glazing, get rid of the car, swap your big TV for a nine-inch black-and-white Bush, share a loo with the people next door, have every holiday at Barmouth, get your teeth drilled without any painkillers and endure the interminable boredom of wet Sundays when absolutely nothing happens. The best that can be said about the 1950s is that they were better than the 1940s.

❒❒❒❒❒❒❒❒

WE are told that Boko Haram, the name of the Nigerian terrorist group, means "Western education is forbidden." Haram is the Arabic word for forbidden which suggests the single word Boko means "Western education." But according to a BBC language expert, the name is a short form of a longer phrase and the meaning is implied. Strangely enough, Britain has an organisation with a very puzzling name. Special Air Service sounds like a courier company. It actually means "Lots of very hard men from Hereford are coming to kick seven sorts of **** out of you." Boko Haram may soon be in for a real education.

❒❒❒❒❒❒❒❒

RESEARCHERS in California have discovered that polar bears have evolved uniquely to live on a high-fat diet that would kill any human. This, according to one report, is why polar bears never need to diet. Another reason polar bears never need to diet is that they stand nine feet tall, have razor-sharp claws and nobody ever calls them a lardarse.

❒❒❒❒❒❒❒❒

AS he campaigns for women soldiers in the front line and sneers at the Army's "macho" image, Defence Secretary Philip Hammond should try spending a few nights on exercise or operations with a typical infantry platoon. They are the ones whose job, to seize and hold the ground, has changed little in thousands of years. In the last resort they do it with with rifle butt, fists and bayonet, so close to the enemy that they can smell his dying breath. These are warriors who kill and are killed in much the same way as King Henry's muddy, bloody warhammer-wielding band of brothers at Agincourt. Their job is so filthy, foul, demeaning and stressful that it can, and often does, send them mad. It is a terrible tragedy that in the 21st century we still need men to do such things. And only a politician utterly unaware of the reality of battle would want women to do the same.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Wasteland owners must secure site

THE owners of waste land in Oldbury near to an historic brewery have been told to clean up the site after it was declared unsafe.

Officers from West Midlands Fire Service recently visited the rundown site in Mill Lane, Langley.

The area has been used by fly-tippers and vandals. The fire service has been called out to tackle small fires at the site. While residents have also voiced worries that children could access the land.

Sandwell Council has cleared some of the rubble left over from the demolition of the buildings. Site owner Bovale Limited said it would be installing fencing at the site.

Councillor Ian Jones, said: "Plans are in place for the landlords to re-install fencing to a higher standard for improved security and the site cleared of trees and scrub foliage to leave it in a tidy state over the summer."

Nick Hawkes, project manager at Bovale Limited said: "What is happening immediately is that we have instructed contractors to come on site to reinstate the fencing around and make it secure once again. As part of the this we have to do a certain amount of work with ecologists on trees on the site to make sure we aren't disturbing birds nesting in the trees."

Station commander at Oldbury Fire Station Jason Jew said: "Historically we have attended small fires, car fires etc as the land is easily accessible.

"The land is also the focus for fly-tipping and is used as a 'play area' for the local children."

Brothers' knife fight ends in jail sentence

A MAN was rushed to hospital for emergency surgery after a knife fight with his brother outside their mother's home, a judge heard.

She had called Manliki Dormer, aged 32, for help amid fears that his brother Dwayne Nelson, 26, was suspected to be dealing drugs from the address and had refused to leave, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

by John Scott

Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting, said: "Whatever Nelson had been doing, it was regarded by the mother as bringing trouble to the house, so she rang her oldest child for assistance."

Dormer urged his brother to leave but was grabbed by the throat and thrown up against a door at the property in Mill Drive, Smethwick on September 20 last year, it was said.

The two men then went outside where Nelson produced a knife injuring Dormer on the knee before being disarmed by his brother, explained Mr Searle who continued: "Having got the better of the situation, the defendant started to use unreasonable force."

Nelson, whose previous convictions included a five year jail sentence for a knifepoint robbery, tried to run away but was pursued and stabbed in the stomach, chest and chin by the defendant, the court heard.

Mr Sean Sidhu-Brar, defending, said: "He fell to his knees pleading with his brother to leave the premises but was attacked. The injured party then produced a knife and started making stabbing motions.

"Fearing he was going to lose his life, the defendant got involved in a struggle that saw them both fall to the floor. He realised that his knee had been injured and lost his temper before using excessive self-defence."

Nelson sought refuge in the house of a neighbour after suffering three wounds and was taken to hospital with a perforated stomach. He need a blood transfusion, was on a ventilator for 24 hours and spent two days in the critical care unit before being transferred to a ward where he was treated for almost three weeks before being discharged.

Dormer from Denbay Grove, Yardley Wood pleaded guilty to wounding and was sent to prison for 22 months by Judge John Warner who told him: "Your brother is no stranger to the criminal justice system."

Number's up for plate thefts

Chief inspector Andy Beard, general sales manager Mark Lines and Pc James Murphy

CAR dealerships across the Black Country will fit anti-theft screws to every car they sell in future as part of a police crackdown on number plate and fuel theft.

West Midlands Police have joined forces with 27 car dealerships, including ones in Sandwell, as police step up their fight against the thefts. Operation Kadence was originally launched in 2011, and despite seeing a drop in the number of number plate and fuel thefts – also known as bilking – they still receive around 300 reports fuel theft and 250 reports of number plate theft every month. Guest Motors which is based in Armstrong Way, Willenhall, is one of the dealerships to be involved in the initiative.

Mark Lines, general sales manager, said: "We are in support of it, anything that can reduce any form of crime is a positive thing. The big thing is to stop number plate thefts. It is very, very easy to change a car number plate. We have seen a rise in it, by ourselves being a victim of it and had customers come in whose number plate has been taken."

Careers scheme is praised

A MANUFACTURER that launched a project to teach pupils about careers has been praised by an MP.

Adrian Bailey, who represents West Bromwich West, visited Black Country foundry Thomas Dudley to learn about its careers in the classroom initiative.

The company employs 250 people at its Birmingham New Road site in Dudley.

Mr Bailey said: "There is so much going on at Thomas Dudley and careers in the classroom was a perfect example of everything you would hope for in a caring local employer."

Inquest told of anxiety after op

A WOMAN found dead in a pond at a nature reserve had tried to throw herself out of a window, an inquest was told. Julie Middleton, aged 73, had suffered psychosis after an operation at Sandwell Hospital on December 16 last year.

Smethwick Coroners Court heard she had tried to jump though the window just days after.

The inquest was told Mrs Middleton, of Queslett Road, Great Barr, was suffering from paranoia. Following the incident, she had been prescribed medication and had seemed calmer.

But on December 23, her daughter Tina Williams said she had been called to the hospital by staff saying she was anxious and agitated. However, she was allowed home after an assessment found her to be in a better condition.

Senior Black Country coroner Mr Robin Balmain adjourned the inquest. A post mortem had shown changes to her lungs consistent with drowning.

The inquest was told Mrs Middleton was reported missing from her home on December 29. She was found in open water at Queslett Nature Reserve on December 31. Mr Balmain said the inquest resume.

Am yow stuck for Scrabble?

IF you are a Black Country 'mon' or 'wench' and like to play a bit of Scrabble, then there is a club just for you.

As part of their Black Country Day celebrations in July, Tipton Library hosts a specially-themed Scrabble club where only Black Country words are allowed.

Wednesbury writer Brendan Hawthorne's latest book, Black Country Dialect, contains a list of words that are suitable for the game. The club will be held on Friday, July 11 at 2pm. Anyone interested should reserve a place by calling the library on 0121 557 1796.

Wrestler in town

A MEXICAN star wrestler will appear in Willenhall tomorrow, Friday. Juventud Guerrera, will be at The Pro Wrestling Show at Gilberts Club where he will tag-team with Walsall's Mad Dog Maxx. The event is from 7pm. Tickets are £5. Call 07747 441028

Young boss cleans up to earn a free shop

THE winner of a council Dragons' Den-style business competition has been crowned.

Sandwell Council set up the scheme to help young entrepreneurs last year, with the offer of a council-owned shop unit rent free for 12 months up for grabs.

La'Toyah Lewis, the founder of Rising Stars Cleaning CIC, has now been announced as the winner of the competition, which will help her set up a specialist cleaning service.

After two rounds of the competition she was handed the shop unit, with added business support from Sandwell Council. Rising Stars Cleaning is set up to provide employment, work and training opportunities to disadvantaged groups by providing a domestic, commercial and specialist cleaning service.

Miss Lewis, the director of the company, has taken it from being a one person business to a growing social enterprise.

She said: "I have managed to grow the company based on my passion and enjoyment for the work that I do. I am grateful to Sandwell Council for believing in my potential ."

Children are hurt in crash

TWO children were involved in a crash in Birmingham.

The two car smash happened at the junction of Sutton Road and Chester Road in Erdington just after 6.30pm on Sunday.

Travelling in one car was a family of four. Both parents were uninjured in the front of the car but a five-year-old boy suffered a laceration to his head and was taken to Birmingham Children's Hospital.

His three-year-old sister was initially uninjured but developed abdominal pains and was taken to the same hospital.

Boy and boys

THE original line-up of 1980s chart toppers Culture Club is playing in Birmingham later on this year.

The band, including Boy George, will be playing at the national Indoor Arena, Birmingham, on December 12 with special guest Alison Moyet.

Footbridge at park is officially opened

The bridge at Thimblemill Brook

A NEW footbridge which has been installed at a Sandwell beauty spot has been officially opened marking the completiton of a £50,000 project.

The bridge has been put in place at Thimblemill Brook, Smethwick for visitors and residents.

As well as the bridge, a wooden sculpture seat has been installed. Native trees and flowers have been planted in recent months to spruce up the mile-long stretch of land which has a natural spring and brook which is bordered by two roads.

The Friends of Thimblemill Brook received a grant of almost £50,000 to carry out the work and members say it has already proven popular with visitors.

Group treasurer Moira Black said: "Although initially there was some reluctance from some residents, it's now clear local people really like the bridge and they're using it every day.

"That's great and exactly what we wanted to see. Sometimes people just stop on the bridge and enjoy looking at the brook and being close to nature".

Sandwell's Project Officer Jo Miskin said: "It's been quite a challenge to get the bridge installed but we've been able to work very closely with the Friends of Thimblemill Brook."

A ceremony took place to mark the official opening and schoolchildren from St Gregory's Primary School attended.

The bridge was funded by Community Spaces, who awarded funding to the Friends of Thimblemill Brook and Sandwell Council supported their application.

In July last year residents had complained that they were not consulted on work to make way for the footbridge.

The area is home to kingfisherss.

Outstanding school to train new generation of teachers

A PRIMARY school rated as 'outstanding' is has been chosen to help train the next generation of teachers and headteachers.

St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary in Oldbury, is one of only 200 schools in England to be handed National Teaching School status this month.

The status, given to the school by the National College of Training and Leadership, means it will work with other schools on training and professional development, as well as nurturing teachers with the potential to lead a school.

It already works closely with St Gregory's and St Philip's primaries in Smethwick, and St Hubert's primary in Oldbury.

In a double success for St Francis, headteacher Mary Simmons was selected as a National Leader of Education, meaning she will now be able to use her knowledge and expertise to support struggling schools.

Mrs Simmons said she was delighted by the award, which was due to the hard work and dedication of the school community.

She said: "We are looking forward to continuing to work with our partner schools."

The news means there are now eight National Teaching Schools in Sandwell, one of the biggest groups in England.

They are Corngreaves Primary, Cradley Heath, Harvills Hawthorn and St John Bosco Catholic Primary,West Bromwich, Lightwoods and The Orchard Special School, Oldbury, Shireland Collegiate Academy, Smethwick, and Wood Green Academy,Wednesbury. Some 500 schools across England have been selected for national status.

Cards call for force's 40 years

WEST Midlands Police are holding a birthday card competition for children to help celebrate their 40th anniversary this year.

To help mark the milestone, the force is asking children to design a 40th birthday card which can be sent to the force via twitter, email or post. All designs will feature in a dedicated online Flickr album and be shared across social media.

There are three age categories in the competition, with prizes of a £50 Debenhams voucher for aged six and under and £50 iTunes vouchers for age categories seven to 11-years-old and 11 to 17 years. There are also runner-up prizes and commemorative pin badges available. Deadline for entries is July 20.

Cards can be sent by tweeting @WMPolice using the hashtag #weare40, by email to corporate_communications@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk, and by post to 40th Birthday Cards, Corporate Communications, West Midlands Police, Police HQ, Lloyd House, Colmore Circus, Birmingham, B4 6NQ.

Remember what we've done – Clegg

Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg with owner Tony Wouhra (beige suit) as he visits EastEnd Foods, in Birmingham

NICK Clegg has pleaded with voters in the West Midlands to remember the Liberal Democrats' achievements in government – even though they are fielding candidates in just 27 per cent of wards in next week's council elections.

The Deputy Prime Minister refused to say which other parties people in the Black Country should back instead because the Lib Dems have failed to put anyone on the ballot paper in most areas. In Walsall they have just eight candidates, and in both Sandwell and Dudley they have only four.

But on a visit to East End Foods in Birmingham Mr Clegg said: "People accept that without the Liberal Democrats there simply wouldn't have been an economic recovery.

"We're delivering huge tax cuts to people, more apprenticeships, the largest increase in the state pension ever, free school meals in the first three years of primary school. Where we get our message across, people are still supporting us and coming to support us for the first time."

Mr Clegg, a staunch defender of Britain's place in the European Union, said: "Every vote for Ukip, for a Conservative party that is split on Europe is a step closer to the exit."

Mr Clegg was at East End Foods in Aston, the £10 million cash and carry built on the site of the former HP Sauce factory. He met boss Tony Wouhra and chatted with staff while being taken on a tour of the base.

The business, which imports and exports ethnic foods, has depots across Birmingham and West Bromwich.

Elections are taking place in Wolverhampton, Sandwell, Dudley, Walsall, Cannock Chase and Wyre Forest, where a third of the council seats in each area are up for grabs.

The elections take place on the same day as those for the European Parliament, but these will not be counted an the results revealed until Sunday.

NEWS in brief

Trust needs new board members

The Sandwell Leisure Trust needs members that would like to make an impact to sport, leisure and physical activity in in the borough.

It needs people with an interest in sport or health and fitness, and people it describes as 'self-motivated and forward thinking'.

Board members at the charity provide leadership and governance, and work closely with the executive team .

Visit www.slt-leisure.co.uk.

Priest is made auxiliary bishop

A new Catholic Bishop of Birmingham was ordained at a service in the city.

Father Robert Byrne was ordained as auxiliary bishop at St Chad's Cathedral in a service led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols.

Archbishop of Birmingham Cardinal Vincent Nichols delivered a homily in which he said Fr Byrne had been chosen for the people of Birmingham, 'a city of a thousand trades'.

Also there were Fr Byrne' friends and family.

Shower of trade updates issued

A SHOWER manufacturer gave plumbing students at a Black Country college an insight into the latest products and developments in the industry.

Triton Showers in the Midlands ran guest lectures to the plumbing diploma and maintenance operations students at Walsall College, as part of a recent construction, engineering and science careers week.

Am dram show tickets last call

AMATEUR dramatics lovers are being urged to book the final few tickets for the All Saint Players' traditional May show – Role Play, by Alan Ayckbourn.

There are still tickets remaining for Friday, tomorrow. Tickets are priced £4.50 or £4 concessions, with curtain up at 7.30pm every night. To book, call 0121 588 4786.

Polish flights

BUDGET airline Ryanair is launching new flights to Poland and Lithuania from Birmingham. The new flights will offer travel to Gdansk in Poland and Lithuania's second city, Kaunas, twice a week.

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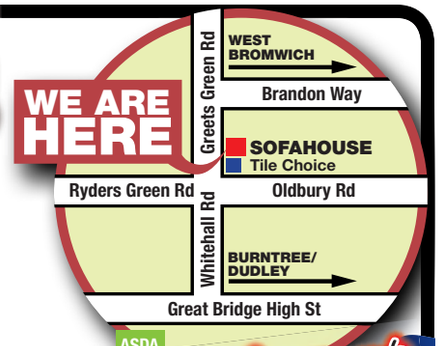

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IN MY VIEW

WITH MARK ANDREWS

YOU can tell it's election time when White Dee's antics in Magaluf seems like a pleasant respite from the wall-to-wall platitudes being churned out by our political leaders.

It seems the star of Benefits Street has left her life on the sofa behind, and has found work in the Spanish resort.

Not grafting in an office or factory ,you understand. Or even a few shifts serving behind a bar. But, nevertheless, it does appear Dee Kelly has found some kind of gainful employment: knocking back shots in nightclubs, judging wet T-shirt competitions, all the kind of messy, menial work that the locals wouldn't want to do. It's a tough slog, but Magaluf welcomes hard-working immigrants who go there to contribute to the economy.

"I am taking casual work," she admitted. "I won't tell you how much I am earning but it's not half as much as people think."

Incredibly, White Dee has even been tipped for a role in Celebrity Big Brother.

Not that she is quite ready to retire from the benefits lifestyle just yet. According to her agent (yes, really) it is out of the question that Miss Kelly should have her benefits stopped.

"I'm trying to get Dee fit for work," said Barry Tomes, alluding to mysterious healing powers.

"Once she does that, she will be able to earn good money."

Well people less reasonable than myself might wonder how somebody who has an agent, has released a rap record and has had sessions as a DJ in Birmingham nightclubs is not fit for some kind of regular work.

But the one question nobody has bothered to ask is whether Miss Kelly really exists.

Isn't it all a bit convenient that the latest scandal has broken in the same week as the national and European elections? And that David Cameron has taken the opportunity to come out fighting, suggesting that he would personally intervene to ensure White Dee is not claiming benefits she should not be receiving?

Call me a mad conspiracy theorist if you like, but has it ever occurred to anybody that White Dee is not a real person, but an actress working for one of the political parties to whip up as much public anger as possible?

It's the same about former Apprentice candidate Katie Hopkins, who has since carved out a media career making spiteful right-wing comments about anybody who does not fit in with her vision of society. She's got to be working for the Labour party, surely?

For all we know, there could be a whole network of undercover spin doctors secretly working in the television industry.

There probably isn't, of course. But just because you're paranoid, it doesn't mean they aren't out to get you.

Aged six, when she became a star, with mum Sharon

The singer ready to perform at the family piano

Connie in action during her tour of South Korea

On song Connie's hope for stardom

CRAIG HUGHES looks at how the future is panning out for one of our brightest young stars, Connie Talbot

SHE stole the hearts of the nation as the angelic little girl with the sensational singing voice and gap-toothed grin.

It seems a long time ago since Connie Talbot started the road to stardom on Britain's Got Talent.

Now almost seven years later and at the age of 13, the Streetly singer is still proving a hit with an army of fans across the world.

The teenager has more than 158,000 Twitter followers and most recently performed to sell-out crowds in South Korea.

Forthcoming concerts will be in Indonesia and Taiwan this summer, and she met a string of famous faces including George Clooney, Carly Rae Jepson to The Wanted.

Despite worldwide fame she has managed to stay grounded and still attends school in the West Midlands, rather than have a home tutor, and tours are planned around her holidays.

Her success has only helped to whet the appetite for more and Connie has dreams of going on to become a fully-fledged pop star.

"Hopefully in the future I will be doing my own songs and practising instruments," she tells us, shortly after arriving home from playing out with friends.

"I would really like to be a pop star. I like Taylor Swift."

Connie shot to prominence in 2007 when she wowed Simon Cowell and his fellow judges with a rendition of Over the Rainbow.

Her debut album went on to sell over 250,000 copies and reached number one in three countries.

Since then whenever the youngster posted recordings of herself on You Tube it has received millions of hits.

The teenager is writing her own songs, and plays both the piano and guitar

The worldwide draw she continues to have was further proven on her recent trip to Korea.

She performed in three sell-out concerts with 1,200 fans each time during a week-long tour during the Easter break.

It promoted her album Beautiful World, but also coincided around the time of the tragic ferry disaster which rocked the whole country and made headlines across the world.

It saw the kind-hearted teenager pledge to donate profits from her concerts to help families of the victims.

"It was really sad, everyone was really down over there. I had heard it all over the news," Connie says.

"I felt really bad for all the people, they are so welcoming, it was just unbelievably tragic."

And of the decision to donate to the cause, she admits: "Everyone was really grateful, it was the least we could do."

Her mother Sharon says it was a sad experience, but the reaction to Connie had been fantastic. "It was such a sad time to go with the ferry incident," she says. "But she had such a welcome to Korea. They just loved her. There were people turning up who couldn't get a ticket and they were waiting."

Her success in music has given the schoolgirl the chance to visit the world and perform in front of thousands of fans, the most believed to be around 25,000 at the O2 Arena.

Sharon says it is has been an experience for the entire family and great opportunity for them to have travelled the globe. Occasionally Sharon and husband Gavin, 46, will bring Connie's brother Joshua, 20, and sister Mollie, 18 along.

"It has been interesting seeing different cultures and meeting really nice people. It has given Connie the opportunity to see the world."

Despite other interests like any other teenager girl it is still music which plays an important part in Connie's life.

"She is doing a lot of songwriting herself to make it in England she realises you have got to get your own material together," says Sharon.

"In her heart she would like to be a pop star. I think she will do pop ballads, maybe like Beyonce."

Even with her fame, education still remains at the forefront for Connie, and maintaining her friends group.

"Connie loves school. We never have to ask her to do any homework," her mother says.

Connie agrees. "I do like to be at school," she adds, saying that her favourite subjects are 'music, English and art'. I do a lot of practicing on the piano and guitar," she adds.

Connie regularly treats fans to her favourite songs recorded to camera at her home and then uploaded on YouTube.

But the video which still reigns supreme is her Britain's Got Talent audition in which she blew the audience away with Somewhere Over The Rainbow. It has attracted more than 122 million views.

POLITICS

WITH DANIEL WAINWRIGHT

I'M a little worried some people might fall into the trap of thinking that today's vote will make a scrap of difference when it comes to Britain being in or out of the European Union. It won't.

Only the Parliament in Westminster can give us a referendum. Whether you vote Ukip or anyone else today will not amount to a hill of beans on that burning issue.

The debate in recent weeks has turned towards being in or out of the EU. There's enormous concern over just how many of our laws originate in Brussels and whether or not our borders are really ours to control.

What doesn't get picked up on as much is it was the former Labour government that decided to open the borders to Eastern Europeans in 2004 while the Germans and French prevented them from working in their countries until 2011.

That was something that happened in London, not Brussels. It might have started on the continent, but it was our own MPs who chose to enact it.

It would also be easy to find the rest of the debates in the European Parliament about as dull as a Eurovision song contest without the dancing milkmaids.

Some of the subjects MEPs tackle on a daily basis are not exactly going to be the ones that people are talking about over the dinner table.

Websites

Press releases issued by some serving West Midlands MEPs recently have included one who was pleased travel websites have to now give information on how to complain and another who won an award in recognition of his work to ensure exhaust pipes were checked for air pollution.... Yawn.

The EU and its Parliament affects people's lives in many ways. One of the things it enforced was the need for websites to flash up messages asking if people are prepared to accept 'cookies' - those little bits of data sent from a site to the user's browser that lets the site 'remember' them.

Nikki Sinclaire, the former Ukip member who founded her own group called We Demand A Referendum Now used her position to gather more than 100,000 signatures on a petition calling for just that.

But it was the UK Parliament that ended up acting on that petition, debating the matter and then throwing it out.

The people we're choosing to represent us as MEPs can deal with the continent-wide issues on immigration, jobs, investment and the environment. They are not the ones that are going to get us out of or keep us in the union.

That's one for the General Election. You have at least another year of this row to listen to.

Not really a local representation

JUST received my ballot sheet for today's elections and spent the next few minutes repeating 'who' and 'never heard of em' as I browsed the various political parties and their representatives whom claim to be ready to uphold all things correct and stand up for me.

One could not help but become sceptical at this particular time but if you are lucky enough to ever meet one of these representatives just ask them the name of the local park, the nearest pub, or even the local school, bet half of them wouldn't have a clue . . . and they call it democracy.

No
West Bromwich

Great day at garden

JUST a word of congratulations to the events team of Tipton Community Association for organising yet another successful and well attended event, the Tipton Slasher Day at Coronation Gardens, Tipton.

Well done to you all and thanks to those that supported also special thanks to our sponsors Tipton and Coseley Building Society.

Barry R Whitehouse MBE
President
Tipton Community Association

Bus shelter parking call

I WISH to protest about cars parked in front of the bus shelter on the precinct in Lucknow Road, Willenhall. This makes my bus stop in the middle of the road instead of by the kerb. I am a disabled man and this drop is very painful for me.

Bus drivers are reluctant to use the kneeling facility and expect me to jump off like a young person. Why don't the police do something? I met a friend in the doctors and she told me a policeman gave her a warning about parking outside the doctors and she is disabled too. I feel really angry.

J BRISTOW, Willenhall

LETTERS to the Editor

POST
Sandwell Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
Sandwell.chronicle
@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Taking a stance on animal experiments

FOR more than a century, information on animal experiments has been kept secret. However this could be about to change, as the Government is reviewing the animal experiment 'secrecy clause' and has asked for your opinion.

This 'secrecy clause' is Section 24 of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act. It enables animal experiments to happen in secret, and makes revealing any information about them a criminal offence.

Section 24 stifles public debate about animal experiments, and suppresses scientific and ethical scrutiny.

Please take part in the Government's public consultation on animal experiment secrecy before June 13. Visit navs.org.uk for details – it will take just 10 minutes of your time.

JAN CREAMER
Chief Executive
National Anti-Vivisection Society
Millbank Tower
LONDON, SW1P 4QP

Congratulations on shows

CONGRATULATIONS, Livingston Academy, Wednesbury!

What a splendid way to celebrate your 25th anniversary with four brilliant inspirational and entertaining shows. The achievement of the performers is truly of a professional standard, so well disciplined and committed, in dance and drama.

You can be justly proud of yourselves, well done.

J Elton
Wolverhampton

Even more motoring complaints

WITH regard to the letter from K Smith (Chronicle May 8) drivers are law unto themselves.

I agree with all his comments and would like to add some of my own.

Drivers parking on the pavement, at times 100 per cent of the car; disregarding a single yellow line (no parking during the working day); facing the wrong way when parking then moving off into approaching traffic; parking at night on a 40mph road with no lights (Wolverhampton Road South, Quinton).

Some years ago we all had to show lights at night but then this law was dropped it was replaced with you can park at night without light, providing it's not on a corner or a bend,

Sadly, the police seem to just drive past.

Peter Munn
Yardley Close
Oldbury

Driving? There are no laws

I WOULD not like to be in a car driven by K Smith.

Does he ever get time to concentrate on his own driving standards while watching and moaning about other drivers?

I have driven for 64 years. Yes, I have been a driving instructor.

There are no laws when it comes to driving, I should know, I drove all over the country as a Class 1 driver.

John Jones
Hagley Road West
Oldbury

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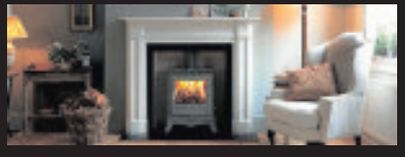

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Joe's hair today is gone for charities' challenge

Joe feeling the cold a little after losing his beard and long locks with his older brother Adam outside their shop

HE said no to the fro after hundreds backed his bid for a close shave for charity.

Joe Ingram, aged 24, co-owns Xtreme Cutz barbers in Cradley Heath High Street with his 32-year-old brother Adam. His prized beard and afro was growing wildly when Adam posted a picture on the outlet's Facebook page.

The challenge was set for both beard and hair to be shaved if they could get 500 'likes' for the picture.

Within just two hours they had beaten the target and they have now passed 800 likes. Through pledges the brothers have now brought in more than £200. Fundraising will not stop there as they collected up the hair into a bag to task peoplehow much the bag weighs at £1 a guess – with a free hair-cut up for grabs.

Both brothers also roped in junior barber Cavan Dixon, 14, and fellow hairdresser Tonya Lee, to help.

Cavan will sport a mascots outfit this Saturday and meet families out shopping in Cradley Heath on the day.

Cash from this latest challenge will be split between the Royal British Legion and Cancer Research UK.

Joe's former beard and barnet

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Police hunt burglar after being caught on CCTV

Police are hunting this man in connection with a burglary which took place in Rood End, near Smethwick

A suspected burglar is being hunted by police after being captured on CCTV.

Thieves broke into a house on Francis Road, near Rood End, stole cash,and left damage to external and internal doors.

The first raider was captured on CCTV wearing a distinctive all-grey tracksuit with white stripes along the legs and arms.

He waited at the side of the property for around five minutes for his accomplice, who arrived wearing a mustard coloured sports style jacket and dark coloured trousers with a grey beanie hat. Anybody with information about the incident, at just after 5pm on Wednesday, February 12, is urged to contact police officers on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Improved standards are sought at primary

A PRIMARY school has been urged to improve standards in pupils' reading, writing and maths skills.

The Priory Primary School, in Wednesbury, has seen standards slip from 'satisfactory' according to ratings from Ofsted to now requiring improvement.

Inspectors said most pupils make 'expected rather than good' progress in reading, writing and mathematics.

By Andrew Turton

Ofsted lead inspector Ian Jones and Laura Henshaw visited the school based in Dorsett Road, Friar Park, which has more than 230 pupils, earlier this year.

Mr Jones said that there were positive signs of improvement at The Priory but he did highlight the need to improve pupils' skill when they leave for secondary school.

He said: "Most pupils make expected rather than good progress in reading, writing and mathematics. As a result, standards are below average when pupils leave the school.

"Teachers do not always give pupils, especially the most-able pupils, work that stretches them. Some older pupils do not have a good range of reading skills by the time they leave school."

He said one area which needed tackling was the links between the school management and governors, who he claimed 'have not kept a close enough eye on standards'.

Mr Jones says that lesson planning by teachers is improving and teaching more often builds on pupils' previous learning.

He added: "There have been significant changes in staffing since the previous inspection, with four new teachers starting this year.

"They have made a promising start, and are now beginning to close the previous gaps in pupils' learning."

Mr Jones did remark that the behaviour of pupils and their safety was good, adding: "Pupils are happy to learn and attendance is above average."

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Abattoir plan for old Firkins bakery

AN abattoir could be opened on the site of a former bakery creating 25 jobs.

Plans have been revealed to use part of the old Firkins factory, in West Bromwich.

The site has stood empty since the bakery factory was closed in 2011, but now proposals have been lodged with Sandwell Council. The new abattoir would be based in the front part of the old bakery building, with a small shop counter area for direct sales. The rest of the site would remain empty and could still be redeveloped.

In total it is estimated that more than 2,000 chickens will be processed a day under the proposals. The abattoir would receive the birds in crates on lorries and vans via an entrance on Black Lake.

A report to the council from DNA Group, the agent for the developer, said: "The application proposes an entirely appropriate use of the industrial building, formally the Firkins Bakery, bringing this damaged building back into a viable use."

The developer has outlined plans to install an air filtration system to minimise smells coming from the 71,000 sq ft building that will at times, temporarily house livestock. The report goes on to say that the daily deliveries will take place out of view of people living nearby.

The plan also outlines a large staff car park suitable for up to 30 employees.

Councillor Paul Sandars, who represents Hateley Heath said: "We always welcome new jobs to the area and it's good to see a vacant factory being brought back in to use, but so far I haven't heard how residents feel about the plan. The resident's views must come first on a development like this."

Collapse shock for students

A FLOOR collapsed at a student party in the West Midlands, sending them plummeting into a basement.

More than 100 revellers were at the house party in Livingstone Road, Handsworth when the floor fell 8ft. Paramedics said it was 'amazing' that no-one was seriously hurt.

Birmingham City University student Qadar Adde, who was DJing when the drama began at 1.20am on Saturday. He said: "We were all dancing and then we felt the floor wobbling. All of a sudden, we heard a loud bang and we crashed through the floor."

It is believed a damp problem was behind the collapse.

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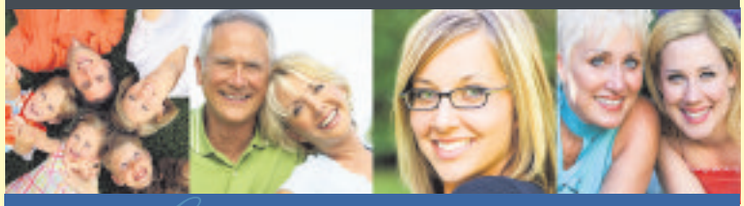

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You have to hand it to them for fundraiser

Four year old Liam Miller, centre, gets ready to raise cash with Omari Lathe, left, also four, Claire Brinton , and Faith Brown

A nursery in Rowley Regis had fundraising at their fingertips when they painted with their hand prints to raise pounds.

Children at Humpty Dumpty Day Nursery got their hands messy when they took part in a hand painting project to raise money for Cancer Research.

Staff at the child care centre on Marlow Street organised for the children to use paints to colour in a huge picture of Humpty Dumpty, but no paintbrushes were allowed and the children got stuck in using their hand prints to bring the nursery character to life.

Organisers of the event to have raised more than £300 for the cancer charity and donations are still being collected.

The hand painting project was organised by staff so that all 49 children who at the nursery could take part and Claire Brinton, officer in charge at the nursery said: "All the children really enjoyed getting messy.

"The picture is that big we struggled to find space on the floor while we completed it, but it was great fun to do. Children used their handprints to colour the whole picture of Humpty sitting on his wall and we are going to display it proudly at the top of our staircase so all the parents can see it too."

The nursery staff decided together to raise money for Cancer Research. The nursery, for children aged six weeks to preschool, is open Monday to Friday from 7am-6.30pm. For more information, call 0121 561 3902.

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Focus on Smethwick and Bearwood

Land plot in hands of council

A DERELICT site where a man was rescued in February after becoming trapped when land collapsed around him, has been taken over by Sandwell Council.

The authority took possession of the land, in Barclay Road, Smethwick. And while the site was secured, officials admitted that it could be some time before any work was carried out.

Sandwell Council said a compulsory purchase order for the site had been confirmed but was in the process of being appealed by the site owner.

Residents have long complained about the condition of the site and asked for action to be taken. Councillor Bob Piper, ward member for Abbey, said he was pleased the site had now been secured.

He said the council had been granted the compulsory purchase order in January by the Planning Inspectorate. Councillor Piper said the owner had appealed against the inspectorate's decision and the case was now going through the High Court. "The inspectorate's decision was made when the owner of the land failed to make a convincing case he should be allowed to continue to develop the site.

"Obviously there is no point us spending money on the site if at the end of the legal proceedings it is handed back to the owner."

Food billions Boparan reigns chicken supreme

THEY call him the 'chicken king'. Ranjit Singh Boparan heads a business turning over £3 billion a year supplying poultry to KFC, Sainsbury's and Tesco.

His 2 Sisters Food Group, with factories in Smethwick, West Bromwich and Wolverhampton, is part of a business empire that employs 24,000 people. It is pretty good going for a former butcher's shop boy from Bilston.

By Dan Wainwright

Mr Boparan left school at 16 with very few qualifications and now, he and his wife Baljinder have a fortune of £1.3 billion, meaning they top the list of the richest Asians in the West Midlands.

The 47-year-old champions the idea of a 'British' brand that everyone should work together to promote. His business includes some household names including the fish and chip restaurant chain Harry Ramsden's as well as Northern Foods, the producer of Goodfella's and San Marco frozen pizzas and Fox's Biscuits. He started the 2 Sisters group in West Bromwich in 1993 with a small loan. Since then the business has grown, acquiring more and more others.

In the year to August 2009, 2 Sisters' sales increased 28 per cent to £649.4 million, with pre-tax profits up 33 per cent to £33.9m, leaving a £12m dividend for the family – an impressive feat during a recession. It is now recognised as the country's second largest food production company.

Northern Foods, which also makes Marks & Spencer ready meals, was added to his portfolio in 2011 having seen off a rival based in Dublin. No-one had been able to match Mr Boparan's £342 million cash offer.

With Asda and Morrisons also on the list of companies supplied by 2 Sisters it is no wonder that Mr Boparan has acquired the nickname 'chicken king'. British Airways and Harrods are customers too.

Although profits soared during the recession, the business has not been immune. 2 Sisters confirmed recently it would be shutting its Solway Foods site in Corby.

Losses within Boparan Holdings, the parent company of which Mr and Mrs Boparan are the sole shareholders, almost doubled in a year to £27.5m. Sales were up, however, by 35 per cent to £848m – boosted by the takeover of meat and chicken processing business Vion a year ago.

Mogul – Ranjit Singh Boparan

Tesco – a customer of 2 Sisters

The head office in West Bromwich, and there are also premises in Smethwick

Student up for design accolade

A UNIVERSITY student from Oldbury has been shortlisted for an annual design award.

Art and Design student Aleksandrs Golubovs, who studies at the University of Wolverhampton, is in the running for the Penguin Random House Design Award.

More than 1,100 aspiring designers from across the UK were entered for the award, which is divided into a Penguin Adult Prize and Puffin Children's Prize.

Mr Golubovs, aged 22, is one of 10 students who made the Adult Prize shortlist. Entrants were challenged to design a cover for a selected adult or children's book.

Mr Golubovs, said: "Initially I was hesitating whether to submit my book cover design for the competition as I am very critical of my work. " The winner will be announced on June 18.

Park hosts big festival

THOUSANDS of people will arrive for one of the largest Vaisakhi Mela celebrations in the Midlands next month.

Smethwick's Victoria Park hosts the event – marking its 20th anniversary this year – on June 1.

The Mayor of Sandwell, Councillor Linda Horton, will officially open the event, which runs from 11am until 5.30pm, at 12.15pm. For information call 07721 400422. Stall bookings can be made on 07976 285398 or 07790 543056.

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Paul Webb, from Tipton, whose father Harvey Webb has been awarded the Artic Star medal

Harvey Webb, seen in later life, with his wartime medals

The destroyer ship HMS Scorpion, on which Harvey served as part of the Arctic Convoys

Son's pride after bravery of his father in convoys is recognised

HE was unable to swim but it didn't stop brave Harvey Webb joining the Navy during the Second World War and serving on the dangerous Arctic convoys.

Mr Webb is believed to have taken part in around 13 convoys, dubbed 'the most dangerous journey in the world' by Winston Churchill, between 1942 and 1946.

And, seven years after his death, the sailor, from Tipton, has been honoured with the Arctic Star medal thanks to the efforts of his proud son Paul.

The medal recognises service between 1941 and 1945 delivering vital aid to the Soviet Union, running the gauntlet of enemy submarine, air and surface ship attacks.

The Government announced last year that Royal Navy and merchant sailors, airmen and soldiers who survived the four-year campaign could apply for the medals.

The campaign cost the lives of around

MEMORY LANE

by Lee Watton

3,000 sailors and merchant seamen, and over 100 civilian and military ships were lost, with the nadir coming in the summer of 1942 when convoy PQ17 was mauled by the Luftwaffe and nine U-boats.

Beyond the threat of the enemy, the men endured terrible weather conditions, the darkness of the polar winter and 24-hour daylight at the height of summer. If ships were sunk, sailors perished in minutes in waters barely above freezing.

Mr Webb's son said his father had rarely spoken of his wartime experiences and it was only in recent years he had learned more of his exploits at sea.

And the 60-year-old had 'made it his mission' to ensure his father received the accolade for his efforts during the conflict.

"It has been a long process because the medals were first issued to surviving veterans, then their widows and finally next of kin," he said. "However I am delighted my father has now been presented with the award. All those who served on those convoys were very brave.

"My father was unable to swim although I assume it would have been a requirement for service in the Navy. I don't know how he did it but he got through."

Mr Webb said after joining the Navy at the age of 18 his father trained at HMS Raleigh, at Torpoint, in Devon, and had wanted to serve on the HMS Hood.

Bismarck

He was instead assigned to the HMS Scorpion where he was a gunner.

Although he was disappointed at the time it saved his life as the Hood was sunk by the German battleship Bismarck.

Mr Webb said: "If my father had his way at the time I would not be here now. His friend was assigned to the Hood and was killed."

His main assignment during the conflict was on the Arctic convoys, escorting Merchant Navy ships filled with supplies being transported to Murmansk in Russia. It was the convoys' mission to protect the ships from attack by German U-boats.

The convoys to Murmansk were renowned as being among the toughest with conditions rough and icy.

Mr Webb said his father had also been involved in a battle with the German ship Scharnhorst.

That ship had been hit and the sailor helped to pull many of the German crew from the water.

He was also in the fleet which escorted Winston Churchill across the Atlantic to America for talks with the US President.

Mr Webb attended the Central School, in Tipton, and is survived by son Paul and daughter Sharon. He has three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Mr Webb said: "I wanted to do this for him to recognise his service during the conflict and I am really pleased he has now received the award."

The young sailor in his uniform back in 1942

ADVERTISEMENT

Camera-shy because of failing teeth, images of a dream Caribbean wedding are missing a mum's proud smile but now she's . . .

THE SUN shone, the sea was as blue as the cloudless sky and a small, family group celebrated a wedding on the shoreline of paradise.

With the warm, golden sand beneath their feet, they toasted the happy couple and made memories that would last lifetimes.

Runaway Bay, one of the jewels of the Caribbean, had it all – magic, romance, a spectacular setting and the ultimate backdrop for wedding album pictures – and there were plenty to be taken.

But one person was noticeably absent from the captured images of the smiles, laughter and celebrations on that special day.

Only a single frame – a group shot ,and not a close-up – featured the groom's proud mum. Jan had travelled more than 4,600 miles to embrace the Big Day moment with five others in the wedding party, but in her own words, "I didn't feel right."

Teeth were a mess

Everything was perfect, everyone was happy and "it was a lovely, lovely day," but Jan deliberately melted into the background every time the cameras clicked.

"I wouldn't have my picture taken," she confesses. "I know it seems strange, but I did not want to spoil the day for my son. That's the way I felt. Everything was lovely, I'd taken some lovely clothes, the setting was lovely and you couldn't have wished for better . . . the people, the ceremony in the pagoda, the beach bungalow where we stayed and the way the locals were so friendly to us.

"But my teeth were a mess. When I smiled you couldn't see any of my teeth and I was so embarrassed at the way they looked, I not only spoke with my hand in front of my mouth, I ate like that too," Jan, from Kidderminster, recalls.

Jan is all smiles as she tends one of her acer trees in her garden.

As the groom's mum, the focus of attention was emotionally crippling.

Now in her 60s, Jan's troubles began some 40 years ago. Suffering with a gum disorder in her lower jaw, her dentist carried out a full clearance.

"I had four lower teeth in the front where the trouble was, but I was told I had to lose them all. In those days you just accepted it. It was a horrible experience and those experiences stay with you," she says. Jan tolerated a catalogue of prosthetic prescriptions which never "felt comfortable or looked right" and for 15 years her food choices were seriously compromised.

"I couldn't eat apples, or pears, or steak and every time I went to a restaurant I'd have to order fish. My gums were always sore and I couldn't chew properly," she adds.

Jan's self-esteem hit rock bottom until she saw an article in the newspaper about Steven Burchell's work at the Denture Clinic in North Street, Dudley.

"My husband said I should book an appointment and I told him that he needed to get laser surgery on his eyes. He said 'I can live with glasses, but you can't live without your teeth."

It was true: Meeting Jan now is an engaging experience and she loves her new look.

"I'm planning to go back for our 50th wedding anniversary... *guess who won't be frightened to have their picture taken then?"*

"On the picture from the wedding my face seems so small, but my whole appearance has changed since meeting Steven. My only regret is that I didn't meet him earlier," she adds.

Steven CDT DipRCS(Eng) says: "Jan came to me with dentures that were not really helping here. She had a lot of gum and bone erosion – a natural ageing process – and her dentures were not stable.

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Says Jan, who has now taken her 85-year-old mother for some new teeth at the Denture Clinic: "All the way home after my new teeth were fitted I kept looking in the car's vanity mirror and smiling at myself. I was so chuffed.

"I'm planning to go back to Runaway Bay with my husband in 2016 for our 50th wedding anniversary and guess who won't be frightened to have their picture taken then?"

As for her experience with Denture Clinic: "Simply the best! I can't thank Steven and his team enough."

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COMMERCIAL FEATURE

Llandanwg Holiday park is set in an idyllic spot

CARAVAN holiday home owners at a caravan park beside the beautiful Artro estuary are able to take to the seas with ease, thanks to the relaxed attitude of the local sailing club.

Residents at Llandanwg Holiday park which nestles in the quiet village of Llandanwg, north of Barmouth, are fortunate to have access to boat moorings, they are also able to launch sailing and motor boats from the sailing club slipway, just minutes away from their holiday homes.

Owners are thrilled to be able to launch into the protected estuary at such an idyllic spot.

Stroll

"It's great for our owners here, there's a bit of work digging the mooring, for a nominal fee when joining the club. Owners can simply stroll from their holiday home down to the beach for a day at sea," said Peter Richards manager of Llandanwg Holiday Park.

"What could be better after a week of hard work, than to relax out in the bay for the day, then stroll back up to the park for a barbecue as the sun sets?"

Swimming and fishing are also very popular on this award-winning clean beach.

Llandanwg Holiday Home Park is a beautifully kept five-star premier park situated between Barmouth and the historic town of Harlech, overlooking Tremadog Bay and close to many excellent quality restaurants and pubs serving home cooked food and real ales. Owners on the park boast about the tranquil location and the beautiful views which can be seen from the comfort of their holiday homes.

The park has 95 privately owned holiday homes and is open from March to January, with access to free wi-fi, laundry facilities and on-site tourist information.

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Banking on loyalty of Glynis after 40 years

EVERY organisation has its loyal servants but one which stands out at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust is Glynis Fenner, who has worked for the NHS for 40 years.

Glynis, 57, who lives in Wolverhampton, is the Senior Nurse in the trust's bank. This role involves managing the pool of temporary staff who come in to assist with the running of the hospitals. These workers come from a wide range of areas with many different skills.

She said: "We have really moved the trust bank forward since I have been here. We now incorporate nurses, admin and clerical, drivers and interpreters, in fact the only group we don't cover is doctors."

Qualifying

Originally from Newcastle, Glynis started her career in nursing in 1974 and has worked in Newcastle and London before settling in the Midlands.

In her years as a nurse, she became a ward manager three years after qualifying and went on to establish a course in neurosurgical nursing in London, when she identified a pressing need for it.

Moving to the trust's bank 12 years ago, Glynis has also helped improve interpreting services within the trust.

Glynis said: "We have now improved quality for the patients and have made a considerable saving for the trust.

"We are always trying to do something different, learn from the past and improve the service for patients."

Glynis' colleague, Deputy Chief Nurse Linda Pascall said: "Glynis is the kind of colleague you dream about. She is a person who shares your own enthusiasm for people and doing your best because in the end it affects how we care for our patients and of course each other.

"She's usually the first person to be on duty and the last to leave. Her dedication is difficult to match. Glynis is always ready with a smile, a kind word or a shoulder when things get tough. She is definitely a hero for us."

Over 40 years in the NHS and Glynis still has the same drive and passion for nursing that she started with.

She commented: "I love nursing. I enjoy bedside nursing and coming to work and making a difference.

"A patient could be someone that you know and love, so I always wanted to give people the care that I would expect if one of my loved ones was in that position."

Glynis isn't the only one who is following a healthcare path. Her son Chris has recently qualified as a doctor, daughter Emily is studying Medicine, while her other daughter Sophie has completed a master's degree in Chemistry. Her partner Paul is a Radiographer.

Away from work the proud Geordie, Glynis, follows her beloved Newcastle United and tries to get to games when she can, as well as doing yoga and training for a 5k run, building on her cross country championship from school. She also likes to travel and is booked to go to Mexico in June.

Glynis' hero throughout her long career is her mum. She said: "She instilled a good work ethic in me, and she was very well-respected wherever she worked. She was the funniest person I know and incredibly hard working."

NHS HEROES

ONCE again we focus some of our time on the quiet heroes from a wide variety of backgrounds, doing a wide variety of jobs, in one of the Black Country's largest NHS organisations – Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust.

It employs 7,500 people, many of whom live locally. Last year, the trust saw a patient on a face-to-face basis one and a half million times and provides care from 150 locations.

This week we highlight: GLYNIS FENNER, Senior Nurse

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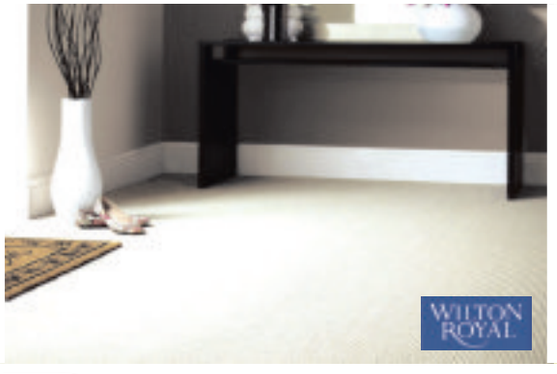

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Buddy's musical legacy raves on

Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story, Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

ON February 3, 1959, the world lost Charles Hardin Holley. But Don McLean was wrong. It was not the day the music died. Buddy's legacy lives on.

Buddy the stage show is celebrating 25 years, itself an indication of the influence the man had on the music scene. It's the story of the tragedy of an untimely death yet from the wreckage came some of the greatest music ever heard. And Oh, Boy! How this show delivered. — Heartbeat, That'll be The Day, Peggy Sue and Rave On, a constant reminder of Holly's talent.

Here was a man ahead of his time. In Glen Joseph, this Grand production, which runs until Saturday, has a man who has the looks, personality and sound of Buddy off to a tee. He was ably supported by a superb cast, who all deserve acclaim.

There was the odd laugh providing a light-hearted touch at what is ultimately a poignant look at a too short-lived existence.

Who cannot fail to be moved by such songs as it Doesn't Matter Anymore, Raining In My Heart and True Love Ways?

With a well-deserved standing ovation at the end., this faultless show is a must-see for Buddy Holly fans.

Mark Shipp

EofE get McBusted showcase

McBusted, EofE, LG Arena

STARS in the making Dudley band EofE were best of three supports for McBusted as they caught the ears of 13,000 with a mash-up of Michael Jackson's Billie Jean with Nirvana's Smells Like Teen Spirit.

It nicely warmed up the crowd of McFly and Busted fans as 17-year-old singer Tom Harris, of Netherton, proved a plucky frontman, whilst Dan Bremner, 19, of Gornal, was adept at classic rock guitar poses. They impressed alongside other up-and-comers Young Brando and Hollywood Ending. EofE showcased new single Lust and free download Kiss Me Like You Mean It.

McBusted feature six of the two bands' original seven (ex-Busted frontman Charlie Simpson is resolutely solo). McFly shot out of the stage as the Busted duo arrived in a Back To The Future DeLorean to play a 100 minute set featuring all the hits from Air Hostess and Year 3000 to 5 Colours In Her Hair and Obviously. They do it all again on Tuesday.

Leon Burakowski

Reviews

Wolverhampton teens Callum Osbourne and Harry Ondrak-Wright in Lord of the Flies

Savage energy on display as schoolboys go wild in theatre

Lord of the Flies, Birmingham Hippodrome

CHOREOGRAPHERS Matthew Bourne and Scott Ambler take William Golding's novel about schoolboys reverting to tribal violence on a jungle island and relocate it in an abandoned theatre where the boys are trapped when sheltering from a riot.

It meant his New Adventures dance company made full use of the Hippodrome, though confusingly the setting still echoed to jungle sounds. The stranded party of well-drilled uniformed schoolboys rapidly turned into a feral gang of swaggering bullies with painted faces, whooping and grunting as they hunted younger or more timid boys.

The production featured 22 amateur dancers from the Midlands and it was to their credit that, apart from their youth, you could not easily tell them from the New Adventures professionals. Take a bow Black Country boys Brad Guest, Dereece Leigh-Gayle, Declan Lewis, Harry Ondrak-Wright, Callum Osbourne.

Bourne's ballet has menace, especially a dream scene where pig-masked hoodies manhandle one of the boys, and a stunning score of propulsive music by Terry Davies.

Leon Burakowski

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Kings Square Shopping Centre is home to many high street names and has a welcoming cafe

Heart of town for forty years

KINGS Square Shopping Centre has been at the heart of the West Bromwich community for 40 years.

It is the premier shopping location in West Bromwich with great transport connections for the bus and metro just steps away.

The Metro Plaza project, due to be completed later this year, will further enhance these transport connections and increase the access for Sandwell College. It will create an open and welcoming environment for the 120,000 visitors to Kings Square each week.

Popularity

Its popularity is routed in the diverse range of stores from high street names such as Superdrug, Claire's Accessories, Greggs, Iceland, Bon Marche, Warren James and Specsavers, as well as many independent fashion and retail stores. The shopping malls within the centre group around a light filled atrium with a central café at its heart.

It also offers access to the eclectic indoor market and the neighbouring outdoor market, which open everyday.

Kings Square has changed a lot since it opened in 1974, but it is still at the heart of the West Bromwich community.

Both locals and visitors from outside the area find it is the perfect place to shop, catch up and relax.

Sprucing things up

THE Big Spring Clean, one of Sandwell's most popular community campaigns, is back for 2014.

Sandwell Council is running the scheme for the eighth successive year with its waste partner Serco and local charity Litter Watch.

The multi-award winning campaign takes place across the borough's six towns and is inspired and led by residents. Hundreds of locations have benefited in recent years.

To mark Sandwell's 40th anniversary in style, the campaign is targeting more than 40 miles of pavements with litter picking, planting 40 trees, working with 40 schools and painting 40 metres of fencing and railings. Events can be focused around areas such as litter picking, graffiti removal, planting, supporting local wildlife, or painting.

The campaign runs until October, call 0121 544 3916, or email bigspringclean.sandwell@serco.com to get involved.

High street events

WEST Bromwich High Street is to host many events throughout 2014.

Some of the forthcoming attractions include:

- Saturday, May 24: 11am to 2pm – Pure Gym Spinathon
- Thursday, May 29 to Saturday, May 31: 9am to 5pm – Continental Market (For details call 0121 553 3074)
- Friday, June 20: 2pm to 4pm – George Salter Academy Performing Arts
- Friday, June 27: 10am to 2pm – Spring Clean West Bromwich and ECO Bus
- Friday, July 25 to Saturday, July 26: (Time TBC) – Sandwell Arts Festival
- Friday, August 1 to Saturday, August 2: (Time TBC) – Sandwell Arts Festival
- Thursday, August 7 to Saturday, August 9: (all day) – West Bromwich Pleasure Beach
- Saturday, November 29 (Time TBC) – West Bromwich Christmas Launch Event

£6.3m restoration work

APPROXIMATELY £6.3million is being spent on restoring Dartmouth Park to its former glory.

The show-piece Victorian park sits on the doorstep of West Bromwich town centre and provides visitors and residents with an attractive and high quality green space.

Work at the park got under way in late 2009 and has seen the installation of an outdoor gym completed in October 2010 and the restoration of the park's original perimeter wall, decorative railings and War Memorial in April 2011.

A new pavilion officially opened in 2012 and includes a café, toilets, an events room and offices for park staff. It also features a walkway surrounding the building and a viewing tower.

The new sensory garden also officially opened in 2012, and it was designed in partnership with The Friends of Dartmouth Park for visually impaired visitors.

In addition, mountain bike pump tracks have been built at near by Sandwell Valley, which opened in May 2013. A children's water play area will also be created, with work starting early 2014.

The entrance to Dartmouth Park, currently subject to restoration work

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New experience awaits shoppers

THE radical changes at Queens Square Shopping Centre are now starting to really come together, with the aim to create a brand new and improved shopping destination for West Bromwich more and more of a reality each day.

After months of relentless hard work, the scaffolding that has become a common sight in the centre has now started to come down, revealing the fresh, modern changes from the extensive refurbishment work.

The scaffolding now only remains behind the hoardings within the central square area, and is due to come down within the next few weeks to allow finishing touches to be made.

Clear changes are now visible throughout the centre, with the new modern flooring spreading its way out across yet another mall, and the installation of the bright wall tiles and low-level lighting now well underway too.

The first-floor glazed Juliet openings to the centre's planned restaurant users, over-looking the town's leisure and entertainment quarter, have now also been installed, and unit configuration works continue.

This makes way for a brand new chapter for the centre, with the food and beverage offering set to soar over the coming months and reshape the whole Queens Square shopping experience for visitors.

The entrances to the centre are also currently going through an extensive overhaul, providing a fresh new façade to the centre to really put Queens Square on the West Bromwich shopping radar.

The scaffolding has now been removed from the High Street entrance, revealing a whole new modern glass structure that is set to become iconic to the centre once it is complete.

These changes are being felt across all of the entrances, with the contractors working hard to install new automatic doors and contemporary finishings to bring all entrance points to the centre up to date.

While the obvious changes on the surface have been getting shoppers talking about the exciting new Queens Square, the refurbishment project has seen significant updates happening behind the scenes, making the whole centre a completely modern shopping destination for West Bromwich.

The latest technological advancements in fire safety have also been implemented at the centre through a state of the art fire alarm and computerised building management system, sprinkler system, natural smoke extraction strategy, and replacement fire doors, ensuring the absolute safety of all visitors.

All the refurbishment changes that have occurred over the past few months have been incredibly well received by the people of West Bromwich, and the Centre's Management team are receiving daily praise from local shoppers excited for the opportunities that the new and improved Queens Square will bring to the town.

This whole modern overhaul, set for completion this summer, will move the centre forward as a favourite shopping destination.

Queens Square is on the way to becoming highly instrumental in the regeneration of West Bromwich as a top must-visit retail and leisure destination for the Midlands.

Warm welcome – a new entrance to Queens Square shopping centre has been constructed

Retail units are taking shape in the newly-restyled Queens Square

Shoppers are already enjoying the changes at the shopping centre

Refurbishment to be complete this year

ONGOING refurbishment work will improve the malls, toilets and create new rest room facilities at Queen's Square Shopping Centre, West Bromwich.

Nearly £7 million, including a £3 million contribution by Sandwell Council, is being invested on improving the shopping centre in the coming years.

The refurbishment of the malls within Queens Square is progressing well and the new entrance from High Street is nearing completion. It is anticipated that the works will complete during 2014.

More improvements for Queen's shopping centre

Ideal for gents and ladies of leisure

PLACES for People Ltd has been appointed to design, build, run and maintain the £11m town centre complex, due to open in June 2014.

The leisure complex was granted planning permission in October 2012 and is located on the corner of Moor Street and Barton Street.

It will have a 25m pool with a learner pool, a sauna and steam room, a four-court sports hall, a 100-station fitness suite, two dance studios / activity rooms, an indoor children's adventure play centre and a café

The £11m centre complex is due to open in June

An artist's impression of Metro Plaza

Metro Plaza is in public realm

THE latest phase of the Public Realm project is Metro Plaza.

This scheme will improve pedestrian connections between the bus/metro stations and the town centre, it will also create a more welcoming space for people visiting West Bromwich by public transport.

Work started in November 2013, to date the Ringway road has been narrowed and the subway has been filled in.

The road surface is currently being repaved, new paths, ramps and steps are being constructed, along with landscaping works which includes the planting of new trees.

Work to Metro Plaza is expected to complete during the summer of 2014.

Policing priorities

THE current policing priorities for the West Bromwich Central neighbourhood team are:

- Reducing alcohol related offences on Carters Green

Operation Holsten has successfully resulted in the removal of a significant number of street drinkers.

These individuals had refused help and support offered by the police and other agencies and had failed to exercise their treaty rights.

As part of Operation Holsten, robust police patrols are still taking place along Carters Green and retail outlets are being encouraged to reduce the sale of super strength alcohol.

- Reducing crime and anti-social behaviour within and around West Bromwich Town Centre

Anti-social behaviour is being looked at as part of Operation Holsten which includes low level alcohol and drug related offences.

Proactive patrols are taking place in and around the town centre.

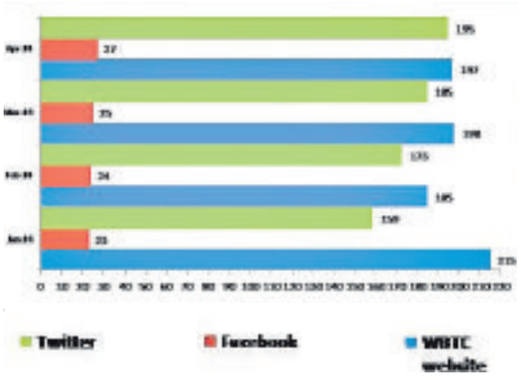
- Crime Prevention

The West Bromwich Central policing team will continue with their dedicated effort, to ensure that visitors, as well as local residents, have a pleasant and safe experience. Here are a few useful crime prevention tips from the team.

When out shopping:

- Keep bags closed. Close to you and never leave them unattended or hang them over the back of your chair
- Never put wallets in your back pockets or backpacks
- Be discreet when using ATMs or handling cash. Don't display large sums of money
- Be aware of your surroundings all the time
- If someone bumps into you, make sure your purse or wallet is still in your possession
- Don't carry more money than you need

Social media and web traffic steady



WEST Bromwich Town Centre website has seen steady traffic since January.

As well as westbromwichtown.co.uk its social media sites are also showing a similar pattern, with visits to facebook.com/pageWestBromwich-Town and www.twitter.co.uk/@WestBromwichTC doing well over the last four month period.

For further details on the area visit the website www.linkedin.com/LisaHill

There are now 50 members of the West Bromwich Town Centre Membership Scheme.

If you would like to find out about joining the scheme please contact Lisa Hill on 07966 086750.

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An Express & Star supplement

Support service for carers is vital lifeline for borough

IF you are a carer for an elderly person, it is re-assuring to know that a carer support service is available in the area.

Age UK Sandwell offers short breaks of up to six hours per call to anyone caring for an older person who lives in the borough.

Personal care, support with medication, chaperone to medical or social appointments and shopping trips and help with simple domestic chores are also offered.

Once a service user is allocated a member of staff, the same care worker will call each week, building a rapport, ensuring that each individual feels confident that the care worker understands any needs.

Call a member of the team who will be more than happy to arrange everything.

The completion of a couple of forms ensures that the organisation provides exactly the amount and level of care required, ensuring happiness with the service.

Care workers don't just provide care support,. They also make sure all members of the team understand older people and their needs.

Whilst care support is essential for many older people it is not who they are, that they have a wealth of life experience and other needs, the understanding of which is integral to providing a good service.

Carers can organise much-needed respite through Age UK Sandwell

The service aims to offer companionship and care for older residents

Staff will take time to get to know the person they are caring for.

Just like family and friends, they want to make sure the respite break offers the right companionship and an enjoyable experience, building trust and confidence in care workers for both parties.

The service is charged at £10 per hour.

To arrange assistance, call Wendy Edge, care and support services manager or Christine Harris-West, deputy manager, on 0121 553 6712 to arrange an assessment.

Age UK Sandwell Care and Support Team is based at Unit 3 Beeches Road Enterprise Centre, 1a Beeches Road, West Bromwich B70 6QE

Email shortbreaks@ageuksandwell.org.uk or telephone 0121 553 6712.

For further details visit the website at www.ageuksandwell.org.uk

Age UK is nationally recognised as a specialist provider of care for older people, making it the perfect choice to deliver training. If you are a care service provider the costs associated with updating the knowledge and skills of your staff, and the requirement to maintain mandatory training, can be expensive.

Perhaps an onsite trainer is too much for your organisation in the current financial climate and constantly reviewing your staff training records is time consuming.

At Age UK Sandwell staff are dedicated to providing effective, expert training at a low cost, because they know how hard it can be to get the right kind of training and at the right price.

Courses operate on a regular basis and several places can be booked at once or as and when needed.

Age UK cares about the kind of training care workers get, particularly for older people, and because it delivers care services, the importance of having dedicated, well trained and highly motivated staff is never underestimated.

Block bookings will receive a discount which makes the service even more cost effective. Age UK can also offer repeat bookings and maintain a skills register for staff – letting you know when training is due and reminds you to book refresher courses.

Courses are delivered face to face by tutors who are qualified/approved and have many years experience in care services – no computer based courses with little to no support for learners.

You can book courses for half day or as a full day of training and prices start from £70 per half day course (four courses per day) – discounted to £100 per day if you take up all four courses.

Block bookings for more than five people are offered at discounted rates and a buffet lunch and refreshments through the day are provided for those attending all day sessions.

Sandwell age UK

Age UK Sandwell Day Care

The new name for AGE Concern Sandwell

Day Care for older people

Age UK Sandwell Day Centre is based in Beeches Road West Bromwich, and offers activities for older people aged 50+ including:

- Home cooked meals by our experienced cook - able to provide both Traditional English and Asian menus from our Gold Standard kitchens
- Exercise sessions and other physical activities such as Wii bowling to maintain and improve mobility
- Day trips/days out
- Quizzes and other group games
- Support with mobility problems and personal care from NVQ Qualified, trained and experienced care workers
- All day sessions / Transport to and from the Day Centre for older people with greater care needs
- Morning or afternoon drop in sessions

Full day care sessions are provided for older people with dependent or personal care needs,those with very poor mobility and/or have been assessed by Social services and offered a personal budget.

This service costs £24.49 per day with a subscription charge of £6 per day for activities, transport and meals. Half day drop in sessions are also available to any older person who wishes to attend social activities and make new friends. This costs £6 per day for activities and meals. Taster sessions are available - please call Sue Bishop - Care Support Team Leader on 0121 525 2499 to arrange your place.

Volunteering with Age UK Day Care

We are always looking for people who can help us at our Day Centre, making cups of tea, helping out in the kitchen or running an activity session. Our volunteers receive FREE training in care work, so if you would like to apply please contact Sue Davies on 0121 500 1860.

Age UK Sandwell Day Care
1a Beeches Road
West Bromwich
B70 6QE
e daycare@ageuksandwell.org.uk
t 0121 525 2499
www.ageuksandwell.org.uk

Affordable homes for town centre

Urban 180 West Bromwich Eastern Gateway

LOCATED between Bull St, High St and Overend St in the town centre, the £20 million Urban 180 development will provide high quality affordable homes, office space and retail units.

All 29 properties, as part of phase one are now complete, providing a mixture of affordable two, three and four-bed homes and apartments, featuring innovative design and complemented by green spaces.

The Shalimar building on the corner of High Street/Bull Street has been demolished, and the construction of a further 40 homes is now underway.

It is anticipated that these homes will be complete by summer 2014.

Sports facilities at the academy benefit the community

Top notch facilities for netball/tennis and football

Facilities benefit entire community

GEORGE Salter Academy (GSA), located in Greets Green, West Bromwich is a community school in every sense of the word.

Over the last 10 years the school has worked hard to raise the aspirations of students and their families, and has consistently produced outstanding results at both GCSE and A-level.

However, the academy recognises the wider role it has within West Bromwich, and proactively seeks opportunities to engage with community organisations.

One such way is through the extensive evening and weekend use of the academy's facilities. It is widely regarded as having excellent sports facilities for example, which can be hired at extremely competitive rates.

The GSA boasts a full size and seven-a-side multisurface pitch and recently constructed netball/tennis facility, all of which are floodlit.

In addition, there is a recently refurbished four-court sports hall, furnished with brand new indoor cricket nets and classrooms overlooking the hall.

For martial arts or aerobic activities, there is also a new activity studio, and from February 2014, there are now eight changing rooms, featuring individual shower cubicles.

It is not only the sports facilities that are used by the community. Organisations regularly using the academy's dance studio, hall spaces and classrooms, which all feature interactive whiteboards and the latest IT equipment.

In January 2015, the academy will unveil its brand new 450 seat theatre and conferencing space, Reception and coffee bar, performing arts facilities and two-storey science block, all of which will be available for the community to use. For information on how to hire the facilities at George Salter Academy, contact Ian Lockett, Community Director, on 07889 535898, or at ian.lockett@georgesalter.com

Partnership is in discussion

THE West Bromwich Town Centre Partnership Board has over 23 members.

These, include representatives from Sandwell Council, retail managers, banks, shopping centre managers, Police, Sandwell College and more.

Below are some topics discussed at the meetings:-

- Updates regarding the regeneration of West Bromwich
- Updates regarding the Public Realm of West Bromwich
- West Midlands Police updates on West Bromwich Central
- Presentations on hygiene in West Bromwich
- An update on Queens Square Shopping Centre Refurbishment
- Environment Health Presentation from Sandwell MBC

Society frame is now visible

THE steel frame for the new West Bromwich Building Society head quarters can now be seen at the Providence Place site.

The new head quarters will accommodate 500 staff with the most up to date technology for a financial services company and stands to add to the revitalisation of West Bromwich.

Work started in December 2013 and the building is expected to be complete by spring 2015.

Sandwell Families Big Picnic

Come and join in the fun at Sandwell Families Big Picnic!

All activities on the day are FREE and include:

- Animal Man
- Cycle Roadshow and Dr Bike
- Balloon Modelling
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- Bhangra Tots
- Arts, Crafts and Play Activities
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Sandwell Family Information Service

Everything from pashminas to Peruvian handicrafts – the craft fair is full of interesting items

Tasty delicacies such as Dutch dried sausages will be available along with German salami and olives

Continental style for town's craft market

WEST Bromwich town centre will come alive with the tastes, smells and products of Continental Europe – and beyond – when the Traditional European Food and Craft Fair arrives in town.

Bringing a lot of produce and products that are new and different, the fair will be in town from Thursday May 29 to Saturday, May 31.

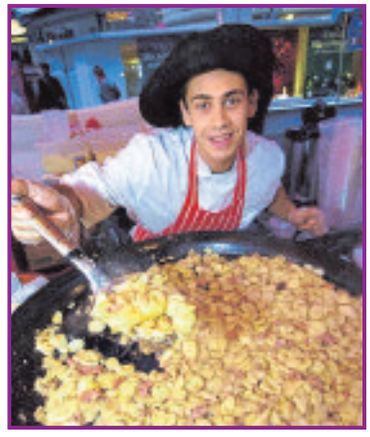
The town centre will be transformed into more of a bustling market place than ever before, as the marketers build on the success of their visits in earlier years. Market organiser Olivier Simonin says: "We have new professional continental market traders from France, Belgium, Italy, Spain, Holland, Poland and many more countries who will be wearing traditional costumes.

"They will be selling high quality products including Brittany biscuits, olives, Italian nougat, delectable cheeses, sausages, tartiflette (a delicious cheese and potatoes dish from the Alps), charcuterie, fresh bread, and croissants. This year, we have some new exciting stalls: German salami, Finnish crafts, Peruvian handicrafts, Italian macaroons and Parisienne handbags. As well as all of these delectable tasty goods, you will also be able to choose from a wide range of products including hand bags and leather items, Marseille soaps, lavender, children's toys and pashminas.

"There really will be something for everyone. Most of the products on sale will come from each stall holder's region, where they are produced by small organisations such as, family businesses, farms or small factories using traditional methods, maintaining a high standard of quality. All of the traders will also wear their traditional local costumes from 100 years ago, as well as decorating their stall to represent the region of the country they come from. It will therefore provide visitors with a true flavour of the continent."

The market is being organised in conjunction with SMBC Markets Service. It is the first major event following the renovation of the High Street and it is planned to hold many more events in the future, aimed at bringing back life and vitality to the town centre.

For more information visit the webiste www.traditionalmarket.co.uk or Facebook www.facebook.com/traditionalmarket



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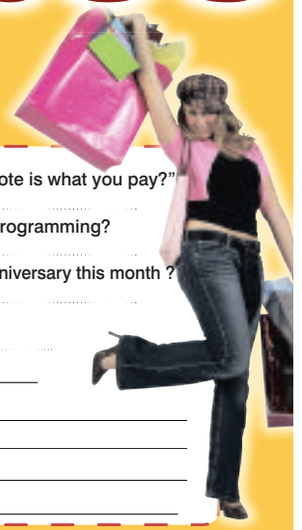

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Swim Deep to play new venue

A NEW music venue opens in the Digbeth area of Birmingham this weekend with a home city concert by Swim Deep on Saturday.

The Oobleck at the Custard Factory arts, retail and business complex is in Alfie Bird's, which also contains a pizzeria, cocktail bar and exhibition space.

Supporting the indie pop outfit, who last year released their debut album Where The Heaven Are We, will be Brighton band The Magic Gang and new Birmingham quartet Juice.

The venue will be officially launched by comic Barbara Nice tomorrow night with the Moselele Singalong and Felix Martin from Hot Chip has a DJ set on Sunday. See www.alfiebirds.co.uk for details.

Art imitates life at New Alexandra

TRIBUTES to rock and pop legends are vying for attention at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre.

Tonight Lee 'Memphis' King presents One Night of Elvis at the Station Street venue. Tomorrow it's The Carpenters Story paying tribute to siblings Karen and Richard.

On Thursday, May 29, The Simon and Garfunkel Story features Dean Elliot, as Paul, from West End show Buddy and Jonny Smart as Art. Fans of the duo will be able to experience half of the real thing when Art Garfunkel is at the Alex on September 6.

Grand unveils a blockbuster new season of music and drama

Home turf dates for rising star

BLACK Country musician Kim Lowings will be coming home for a concert this month as part of a tour which has taken her and her band all over Britain.

The Stourbridge folk singer/songwriter who fronts The Greenwood, a collective made up of local musicians, will be playing Stourbridge Folk Club at Katie Fitzgerald's pub, Enville Street, Stourbridge, on May 29.

On June 21 Lowings will be performing at The Green Duck Brewery, Stourbridge, and on June 30 you can catch the band at The Crescent Theatre Bar in Birmingham.

The band, including Tim Rogers and Andrew Lowings, will be appearing at Bromsgrove and Warwick folk festivals in July before coming back to her home town on September 6 at Stourbridge Folk Festival at the Redhouse Cone.

Black Country folk singer Kim Lowings is coming home

BLOCKBUSTER musical Barnum and a comedy that has taken the theatre world by storm are coming to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, which has annouced it's winter season.

Panto favourite Brian Conley is one of the stars on his way to the Lichfield Street venue as 'the greatest showman on earth' in a revival of the hit musical Barnum, which will visit the city in late January.

Conley is no stranger to the Midlands as a regular in panto at Birmingham Hippodrome and having starred in drag as Edna Turnblad when Hairspray came to the Grand.

The National Theatre's madcap farce One Man, Two Guvnors will run at the Grand from March 16 to 21 with the lead role, first played by James Corden, being taken by Shaun Williamson, who will be starring alongside fellow former EastEnders regular Emma Barton.

Award-winning play The Curious Incident of The Dog in the Night Time, which recently moved West End theatres after a ceiling collapsed, will be coming to the Grand on tour from February 16 to 21. English Touring Theatre will present the Royal Shakespeare Company production of A Mad World My Masters, from February 26 to 28. Classic Arthur Miller drama A View from the Bridge will be at the theatre from March 24 to 28.

This autumn the centenary of the First World War will be marked with performances of Pat Barker's Regeneration. The novel looking at war and its devastating effects has been adapted for the stage by award-winning playwright Nicholas Wright and is staged fromNovember 4 to 8.

Two of the most anticipated shows are the musicals Dirty Dancing, from September 23 to October 11, and West End hit Top Hat, from October 21 to November 1. Meanwhile, the King of Pop Michael Jackson will be celebrated when tribute show Thriller Live returns to the Grand from November 11 to 15.

Newly-announced one night shows include The Magic of Motown on July 13, Soul Legends on September 13 and the return of cruise ship star, from Loose Women, Jane McDonald on September 17.

Brian Conley to star in musical Barnum

Musicals will also dominate the summer with the new stage version of rock 'n' roll sitcom Happy Days on June 10 to 14 and the Marc Bolan story 20th Century Boy, featuring T Rex's hits, from June 30 to July 5.

Meanwhile, tickets are already selling fast for this year's panto Cinderella which will star Julian Clary. He will be joined by Joe Tracini, Hollyoaks actor and son of last year's pantomime star Joe Pasquale.

For tickets contact the box office on 01902 429212 or visit www.grandtheatre.co.uk

Comedy gala will help youth theatre

WOLVERHAMPTON'S own comedy group Pappys, stars of BBC 3's Badults, are among a stellar line-up performing at the Hilarity Charity Gala 2014.

The show at the Grand Theatre on Thursday, May 29, is in aid of the city's Central Youth Theatre.

The show will be compered by Perrier award winner Daniel Kitson. The acts include Josh Widdicombe from Mock The Week, BBC Radio 4's Isy Suttie, 8 Out Of 10 Cats regulars Jon Richardson and Elis James, and Edinburgh Fringe favourite Josie Long. Tickets costs £20 (concessions £15). The age guidance is 14 plus.

Get tickets at www.grandtheatre.co.uk or by calling (01902) 429212.

Going around in Circles at The Rep

AN actress and a playwright, both from Birmingham, team up at The Rep for a play about domestic abuse which is set on the city's No11 bus route.

Circles by Handsworth-born Rachel Delahay is directed by Tessa Walker and stars Sarah Manners, best known for roles in Doctors and Casualty. It is staged at Birmingham Rep's The Door venue until Saturday.

Joseph Heller's Catch-22 is currently in the main house. Game Of Thrones actor Owen Teale will be in Dylan Thomas centenary production Under Milk Wood from June 2 to 7.

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CHOICE

Joanna Lumley

50 Years of BBC2 Comedy (BBC2, 9pm)

BBC Two's 50th birthday backslapping began in April, but who can blame the powers-that-be for making the most of its milestone anniversary? As this programme reminds us, when it comes to comedy, the channel has a lot to celebrate. Right from the start, BBC Two was the home of groundbreaking and iconic shows – in its first year alone, it gave us The Likely Lads and Not Only... But Also. This year's W1A proved, BBC Two isn't afraid to laugh at itself either, but for tonight, a who's who of British comedy – including Ricky Gervais, Eric Idle, Michael Palin, Terry Jones, Vic and Bob, The Goodies, Ian Hislop, Sarah Millican and Prunella Scales will be singing the channel's praises and discussing their own contributions to five decades of laughs.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Nigellissima. (R) **12.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.15 Film:** Father of the Bride. (1991) Comedy remake, starring Steve Martin. **4.55** A Question of Sport. (R) **5.25** Formula 1: Monaco Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights.

6.40 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

7.00 Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present a sitcom special of the unorthodox quiz show. Vicki Michelle, Ian Lavender, Simon Day, Arabella Weir, Meera Syal, Phil Cornwell, Ewen MacIntosh and Simon Greenall try to come up with the least popular correct answers to questions posed to members of the public, hoping to win a jackpot sum. (R)

7.50 The National Lottery: In It to Win It. Dale Winton presents the quiz in which contestants pit their wits to scoop a big cash prize. Includes the Lotto and Thunderball draws hosted by Gaby Roslin, with music by Lee Mead.

8.40 Casualty. Cal assists a family torn apart by sibling rivalry and Tess helps a pregnant teenager stand up to her controlling father. Ash and Zoe realise Connie has been manipulating them.

9.30 The Guess List. Warwick Davis, Jane Horrocks, Rachel Riley, Gary Lineker and Russell Grant help contestants answer all sorts of everyday questions. Game show, with Rob Brydon. Last in the series.

10.10 BBC News; Weather.

10.30 Mrs Brown's Boys. Agnes ends up at the wrong venue after trying to gatecrash Maria's hen party. She then tries to impress the bride-to-be's mother during a dinner date, but the evening ends in chaos; (R) National Lottery Update.

11.00 Live at the Apollo. Dara O Briain warms up the crowd before introducing stand-up routines by ventriloquist extraordinaire Nina Conti and the irrepressible Danny Bhoy. (R)

11.30 The Football League Show. Derby County v Queens Park Rangers. Action from the Championship play-off final at Wembley Stadium.

12.15 Film: No Way Out. (1987) **2.05** Weatherview. **2.10** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 Film: Slaughter Trail. (1951) **7.30** Great British Menu. (R) **8.00** Great British Menu. (R) **8.30** Great British Menu. (R) **9.00** Great British Menu. (R) **9.30** Great British Menu. (R) **10.00** World Cup Films. **10.15** World Cup Films. **11.45** Inspire: Rwanda Special. **12.00** Two Greedy Italians. (R) **1.00** Raymond Blanc's Kitchen Secrets. (R) **1.30** Sophia Loren: Talking Pictures. **2.05 Film:** El Cid. (1961) Historical epic drama, starring Charlton Heston. **5.00** Flog It!

6.00 Golf: The PGA Championship. Hazel Irvine introduces highlights of the third day of one of the tour's most prestigious events, held at Wentworth in Surrey. This event has been decided by a play-off in two of the last three years, and it was Matteo Manassero who triumphed in 2013, as he defeated Simon Khan and Marc Warren. With commentary by Peter Alliss, Ken Brown and Andrew Cotter.

7.00 The Mysterious Mr Webster. James Shapiro investigates the life of dramatist John Webster, whose The Duchess of Malfi was the most frequently performed play of the Jacobean period not written by Shakespeare.

8.00 RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2014. Monty Don, Joe Swift and Nicki Chapman round off BBC Two's coverage of the show with the plant sell-off and the presenters share their favourite moments from this year's event.

9.00 50 Years of BBC2 Comedy. As part of BBC2's 50th birthday celebrations, Joanna Lumley narrates a programme celebrating the channel's comedy output, from The Likely Lads and Not Only... But Also in 1964 through to W1A and Rev from this year. Including moments from shows by Monty Python and Spike Milligan, as well as clips of The League of Gentlemen, The Office, Miranda and Fawlty Towers. With contributions by Ricky Gervais, Eric Idle, Michael Palin, Terry Jones, Alan Alda, Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer, the Goodies, Catherine Tate, Bill Bailey, Ian Hislop, Armando Iannucci, Prunella Scales, Charlie Brooker and Paul Whitehouse.

11.00 Film: Bend It Like Beckham. (2002) Comedy, starring Parminder Nagra.

12.45 The Story of Slapstick. (R) **1.45 Film:** The Salt of Life. (2011) **3.10** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Dino Dan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.20** Digimon Fusion. (R) **7.45** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.00** Adventure Time. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.15** ITV News; Weather. **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **12.20** Storage Hoarders. (R) **1.20 Film:** Beethoven's 4th. (2001) Comedy sequel, starring Judge Reinhold. **3.05** Peter Andre's 60 Minute Makeover. (R) **4.05** Off Their Rockers. (R) **4.35** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. (R) **5.35** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.45** ITV News; Weather.

6.00 Let Me Entertain You. Hairdressers and staff at a community theatre gym go head to head with their take on a famous song, and Michael Underwood showcases viewers' home-made videos for Katy Perry's Roar.

6.30 New You've Been Framed! Harry Hill puts his own spin on viewers' clips, featuring a bungled balcony theft in the Home Counties and the world's most inappropriate birthday present. Last in the series.

7.00 Live UEFA Champions League Final. Real Madrid v Atletico Madrid (Kick-off 7.45pm). Coverage of the showpiece match at the Estadio da Luz in Lisbon, where European club football's premier competition concludes. This is the first time the fixture has been played between two clubs from the same city, and Atletico would love nothing more than to prevent their rivals from winning the trophy for the 10th time, having been a revelation this season under coach Diego Simeone. Real have beaten German opposition in all three rounds of the knockout stage, while Atletico ended Chelsea's chances with victory at Stamford Bridge in the semi-finals. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

10.15 ITV News; Weather.

10.30 The Americans. Philip befriends a former engineer to find out more about the stealth programme, while Elizabeth is shocked when she uncovers new information about Kate.

11.30 Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Peter Andre. (R)

12.30 Jackpot247. **3.00** Dinner Date: Australia. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.05 The Hoobs. (R) **6.30** Trans World Sport. **7.30** The Grid. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Weekend Kitchen. **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.50** The Simpsons. (R) **12.20** The Simpsons. (R) **12.45** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. (R) **1.40** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Haydock Park, Goodwood and the Curragh. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.40** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.15 Come Dine with Me. Frenchman Denis Verrier hosts the final dinner party in Bath, and hopes his experience of working in the hospitality industry will secure him the £1,000 prize. (R)

6.40 Channel 4 News.

7.05 The Restoration Man. Architect George Clarke meets a furniture-maker who wants to create a home out of a colossal Second World War RAF bunker with no natural light and a back section submerged in water. (R)

8.00 Grand Designs. Commercial architect Martin Walker and his art-director wife Kae want to build the ultimate family home near York, inspired by a giant farm shed. However, her idea for a warm and cosy design conflicts dramatically with his penchant for building large square warehouses, and finding something they both agree on proves extremely challenging on their tight budget. Kevin McCloud follows the couple's progress. (R)

9.00 Film: The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn – Part 1. (2011) Premiere. Peaceful vampire Edward marries his human girlfriend Bella, who is soon pregnant. However, the existence of this child has dangerous implications for them and the people around them, and a pack of werewolves is determined to prevent the birth by any means necessary. The first half of the two-part conclusion to the romantic fantasy series, with Kristen Stewart.

11.15 Film: Copycat. (1995) A psychologist traumatised by an attempt on her life agrees to help the police hunt for a serial killer re-enacting famous murders. Thriller, with Sigourney Weaver.

1.35 Film: Basic Instinct 2. (2006) **3.35** Hollyoaks. (R) **5.35** SuperScrimpers. (R) **5.50** The Hoobs. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) **10.15** Access. **10.25** Classic Car Rescue. (R) **11.25 Film:** 633 Squadron. (1964) **1.15 Film:** Columbo: Uneasy Lies the Crown. (1990) Crime drama, with Peter Falk. **3.15 Film:** Columbo: Caution – Murder Can Be Hazardous to Your Health. (1991) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. **5.10 Film:** Jesse Stone: No Remorse. (2010)

6.45 5 News Weekend.

6.50 Longmire. Walt receives a call from a man about a distressed young woman in his store, but later finds the shopkeeper has been killed and the girl has run off. Walt calls on Henry and the Ferg to help track her down and they pick up a trail that leads to a rabbit hutch, where they find an abandoned baby.

7.40 Longmire. When the president of the tribal council is found dead in his car on county land, it is clear to Walt that the body has been moved from the original crime scene. He discovers that the victim had a gambling problem and delves into the seedy world of an illegal poker game held in a tattoo parlour. Meanwhile, the sheriff also deals with feelings of betrayal when he finds out Cady and Branch are having an affair.

8.30 NCIS. A Navy pilot who was wearing an experimental jet pack is murdered in a secluded area, and the strange circumstances of the case lead the team into a confrontation with a no-nonsense attorney who appears to hold a grudge against Gibbs. Crime drama, starring Mark Harmon. (R)

9.30 The NCIS Movie: War on Terror. Feature-length episode. A military aircraft transporting the bodies of US marines back home crashes before reaching its destination, and Gibbs and the team are called in to help identify human remains at the site of the wreckage. However, a DNA discrepancy turns a routine investigation into a search for a missing person. (R)

11.15 NCIS. Gibbs discovers Tony's father is linked to the team's latest investigation, which involves an assassination attempt on a Saudi prince. (R)

12.15 SuperCasino. **3.05** DIY Dummies. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.30** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Lily Allen & Ed Sheeran @R1BW **8.00** One Direction & Pharrell @R1BW **9.00** Calvin Harris & Example @R1BW **9.55** Coldplay Live @R1BW **11.00** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **1.15** Sweat the Small Stuff **1.45** England's Worst Ever Football Team **2.45** Impractical Jokers **3.15** Russell Howard's Good News **3.45** Great TV Mistakes **3.55** Close

BBC Four

7.00 Jazz Legends in Their Own Words **8.00** Jazz 625 at the BBC **9.00** Wallander **10.30** History of the Eagles **12.30** Top of the Pops: 1979 **1.10** Sounds of the 70s 2 New Wave – Hit Me with Your Rhythm Stick **1.40** Jazz 625 at the BBC **2.40** Jazz Legends in Their Own Words **3.40** Close

ITV2

12.10 Britain's Got More Talent **1.10** You've Been Framed! **2.15** You've Been Framed and Famous! **3.20 Film:** The Mighty Ducks (1992) **5.30 Film:** Nanny McPhee (2005) **7.25 Film:** Star Wars: Episode IV – A New Hope (1977) **10.00** Celebrity Juice **11.00** Viral Tap **11.45 Film:** The Nutty Professor (1996) **1.40** Mom **2.05** You've Been Framed! **2.30** Life's Funniest Moments **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

12.35 Jane Austen's Emma **2.45** Agatha Christie's Marple **4.55** Rosemary & Thyme **6.00** Lewis **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Foyle's War **11.00** Bomb Girls **12.00** A Touch of Frost **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4

11.00 Live Indian Premier League Cricket. **8.00** BRDC Formula 4 Championship Highlights **9.00 Film:** Extreme Measures (1996) **11.25 Film:** Serenity (2005) **1.45** Warren United **2.15** Highway Patrol **2.40** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

2.00 How I Met Your Mother **3.00** The Big Bang Theory **4.00** Made in Chelsea **5.00** Youngers **5.30** How I Met Your Mother **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **7.30** How I Met Your Mother **8.00** The Tomorrow People **9.00 Film:** Die Hard 2 (1990) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory **12.30** The Inbetweeners **1.30** Rude Tube **2.30** How I Met Your Mother **3.15** The Cleveland Show **4.00** Made in Chelsea **4.55** Ugly Betty

Film4

11.00 The Last Wagon (1956) **1.00** Letters to Juliet (2010) **3.05** Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (2009) **4.50** City of Ember (2008) **6.40** Mona Lisa Smile (2003) **9.00** The American (2010) **11.05** Scary Movie 2 (2001) **12.40** Carriers (2009) **2.20** The Comedian (2012) **4.00** Close

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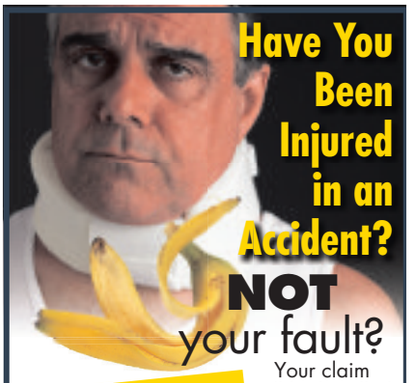

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CHOICE

Phillip Schofield

The British Soap Awards 2014
(ITV, 8.15pm)
It's a tense time for soap fans – there's the ongoing mystery of who killed Lucy Beale on EastEnders, and Coronation Street is launching a whodunit of its own this week. But if you just want to know who the sexiest male in soap is, you're in for a much shorter wait as Phillip Schofield hosts the British Soap Awards from the Hackney Empire in London. It's a chance to look back over 12 months of drama in Walford, Weatherfield, Hollyoaks, Emmerdale, and Doctors' Letherbridge, including one of the biggest TV talking points of the year – the death of Corrie's Hayley Cropper, with David Neilson and Julie Hesmondhalgh (aka Roy and Hayley) are in the runner for Best Actor and Actress respectively, as well as Best On-Screen Partnership.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Countryfile. (R) **2.15** Flog It! Trade Secrets. **2.45** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.15** Points of View. **3.30** Brazil with Michael Palin. (R) **4.30** Songs of Praise. **5.05** Formula 1: Monaco Grand Prix – Highlights.

6.35 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

7.00 Countryfile. Matt Baker is at the childhood home of Charles Darwin in Shropshire, helping to restore the garden's "thinking path", where as a young man the naturalist would spend his mornings in silent contemplation with his father. Ellie Harrison visits a project to create a habitat for the rare water vole and John Craven finds out about a plan that saved thousands of lives during the Second World War. Adam Henson handles rare ponies on the Queen's Balmoral estate in Scotland and Tom Heap reveals how and why walkers are occasionally injured – or in rare cases killed – by bulls and cows. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce heads back to Scotland, where a crowd awaits the opinions of the experts at the National Gallery of Modern Art in Edinburgh. Items include a sketchbook believed to have been made on the journey from England to Australia in 1851 aboard the SS Great Britain, a maritime landscape painting found in a skip and a jade Buddhist lion dog.

9.00 Quirke. New series. Crime drama set in 1950s Dublin, starring Gabriel Byrne as the city's chief pathologist. Quirke is surprised to find his adoptive brother Malachy, an obstetric consultant, meddling in the case of a recently deceased young woman, so he performs a full post-mortem. With no love lost between the men, he is determined to call his relative to account – but as he digs deeper he threatens to uncover a long-buried secret that should have been left untold.

10.30 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

11.00 Vote 2014 – Europe. David Dimbleby presents the results of the European ballots.

3.00 Weatherview. **3.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 Film: The Saint's Double Trouble. (1940) **7.20 Film:** The Saint Takes Over. (1940) **8.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.00** World Cup Films. **10.25** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.55** Two Greedy Italians. (R) **12.55 Film:** They Came to Cordura. (1959) Military adventure, starring Gary Cooper. **2.55** Gymnastics: European Championships. **5.30** Charley Hull – Teenage Tigress.

6.00 Golf: PGA Championship. Hazel Irvine presents highlights of the fourth day of one of the tour's most prestigious events, held at Wentworth in Surrey. This was the 60th staging of the tournament, which came to a close with the players tackling the par-72 course that has staged this competition every year since 1984. With commentary by Peter Alliss, Ken Brown and Andrew Cotter.

7.00 Tropic of Cancer. Simon Reeve traces the path of the northern tropic around the globe, a journey in which he explores the environment, culture, history, politics and people of 18 countries. He begins in Baja California on Mexico's Pacific coast, crossing the country's rugged interior, before heading east to Cuba and ending the first leg in the Bahamas. (R)

8.00 The Best of Top Gear. A final selection of highlights from the last two series, looking back at Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May's most memorable stunts and challenges. Last in the series.

9.00 Harry & Paul's Story of the 2s. Harry Enfield and Paul Whitehouse take an irreverent look at the history of BBC Two, featuring parodies of The Office, Boys from the Blackstuff, Arena and The Apprentice.

10.00 Absolutely Fabulous. Edina is horrified when Bubble tells her she is about to be visited by an ultra-thin model she knew in the 1960s and decides to lose some weight. Guest starring Alexandra Bastedo. (R)

10.30 Steve Coogan: The Inside Story. Profile of the comedy actor. (R)

11.30 Film: A Cock and Bull Story. (2006) An egotistical comedian wrestles with personal issues while starring in a movie of a supposedly unfilmable novel. Comedy, with Steve Coogan and Rob Brydon.

1.00 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.00** Holby City. (R) **3.00** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.20** Digimon Fusion. (R) **7.45** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.00** Deadtime Stories. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** May the Best House Win. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** Love Your Garden. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** Long Lost Family. (R) **1.35** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **2.20 Film:** Black Beauty. (1994) Family drama, starring Sean Bean. **4.00** Let Me Entertain You. (R)

4.30 Midsomer Murders. (R)

6.30 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Britain's Got Talent. Ant and Dec present the concluding round of auditions, before Simon Cowell, David Walliams, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon make their selections for the live semi-finals. Continues tomorrow.

8.15 The British Soap Awards 2014. From the Hackney Empire in London, Phillip Schofield hosts the star-studded ceremony celebrating the best of Coronation Street, EastEnders, Emmerdale, Hollyoaks and Doctors over the past 12 months. Famous faces from the entertainment world hand out awards in 14 categories, including Villain of the Year, featuring Charlie Brooks (EastEnders' Janine), Dominic Power (Emmerdale's resident serial killer Cameron) and no less than three Hollyoaks baddies – Greg Wood (Trevor), Jesse Birdsall (Fraser) and Anna Passey (Sienna). David Neilson and Julie Hesmondhalgh (Corrie couple Roy and Hayley) are nominated for Best On-Screen Partnership as well as the individual Actor and Actress gongs, while David makes a third shortlist in Best Dramatic Performance.

10.20 Perspectives: Bruce Forsyth on Sammy Davis Jr. The veteran entertainer explores the life and work of the US singer, dancer and actor who emerged from the dying days of vaudeville and rose to superstardom. Last in the series. Sammy and Bruce can be seen at 11.45pm.

11.25 ITV News; Weather.

11.45 Sammy and Bruce. (R)

12.40 The Store. **2.40** Motorsport UK. **3.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **4.10** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** Rory Bremner's Great British Views. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The Hoobs. (R) **6.40** Ginetta Challenge. **7.10** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.35** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Secret Eaters. (R) **1.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **3.05** The Simpsons. (R) **3.35 Film:** Hocus Pocus. (1993) Supernatural Disney comedy, starring Bette Midler. **5.30** Deal or No Deal.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Four Rooms. Jeff Salmon, Wendy Meakin, Raj Bisram and Peter Ratcliffe lock horns over a unique silver American football helmet, a rare Rolling Stones LP signed by Andy Warhol, a sculpture of Jesus Christ, an antique big-cat skull and a full-size replica of the time-travelling DeLorean sports car from Back to the Future. Meeting each of the dealers in a separate room, the sellers must judge when to part with their valuable items and when to walk out on an offer. Presented by Anita Rani.

8.00 For the Love of Cars. Ant Anstead sets out to restore a DeLorean DMC-12, while Philip Glenister heads to America to research the story of the car with the unique design that was made famous in the Back to the Future trilogy. Very few DeLoreans were ever made, after the company collapsed following allegations of improper conduct. Philip meets former workers at the original production site, superfans of the vehicle and the daughter of its creator John DeLorean.

9.00 Fargo. Gus and Molly team up in Duluth, and while Malvo executes his master plan, Lester tries to craft one of his own as his life continues to crumble around him. American drama inspired by the Coen brothers' hit film, starring Billy Bob Thornton, Martin Freeman, Colin Hanks and Allison Tolman.

10.05 Film: Kick-Ass. (2010) A teenager tries to become a superhero, but finds real-life crime-fighting much more dangerous than in comics. Action comedy, starring Aaron Taylor-Johnson and Chloe Grace Moretz.

12.25 Film: Berberian Sound Studio. (2012) **1.55** Southland. **2.40** Utopia. (R) **3.35** Just Not Cricket. (R) **3.40** Four Rooms. (R) **4.35** Hugh's 3 Good Things. (R) **5.05** SuperScrimpers. (R) **5.10** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.35** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.20** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.45** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.15** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.40** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers Super Samurai. (R) **10.35** Power Rangers Megaforce. (R) **11.10** Access. **11.20** Meerkat Manor. (R) **11.50 Film:** Ace Ventura: Pet Detective. (1994) **1.35 Film:** Police Academy 2: Their First Assignment. (1985) Comedy sequel, starring Steve Guttenberg. **3.15 Film:** Wild Wild West. (1999) Sci-fi Western comedy, starring Will Smith. **5.10 Film:** The Time Machine. (2002) Sci-fi adventure.

6.55 5 News Weekend.

7.00 Cricket on 5: ODI England v Sri Lanka. England v Sri Lanka. Mark Nicholas presents action from the second fixture in the one-day series, which took place at the Emirates Durham International Cricket Ground.

8.00 Film: Ghost Rider. (2007) Motorcycle stuntman Johnny Blaze sells his soul to diabolical Mephistopheles to save the life of his father. His bargain dooms him to pass each night as Ghost Rider, a demonic skeletal biker bound to take evil souls to Hell. However, conflict between Mephistopheles and his son offers Johnny the chance to win back his humanity. Fantasy thriller based on the comic-book, starring Nicolas Cage.

10.00 Film: Drive Angry. (2011) A man breaks out of Hell to track down the cult leader who has murdered his daughter and plans to sacrifice her baby. Fantasy thriller, starring Nicolas Cage and Amber Heard.

11.55 Car Crime UK: Caught on Camera. How CCTV and technological advances are helping tackle the problem of vehicle theft, including footage that helped put an end to one of London's most prolific gangs. (R)

12.55 SuperCasino. **3.05** Classic Car Rescue. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.30** The Funky Valley Show.

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Rita Ora & London Grammar @ R1BW **8.00** Tinie Tempah & Kings of Leon @R1BW **9.00** Paolo Nutini & Kasabian @R1BW **10.00** In the Flesh **11.00** Katy Perry @R1BW **12.00** Family Guy **12.45** In the Flesh **1.45** Tyger Takes on the Perfect Body **2.45** Great Movie Mistakes – Not in 3D **3.00** In the Flesh **4.00** Close

BBC Four

7.00 The Mysterious Mr Webster **8.00** The Duchess of Malfi: BBC Arts at the Globe **10.30** Secret Voices of Hollywood **12.00** Nat King Cole: Afraid of the Dark **1.30** Legends: Herb Alpert – Tijuana Brass and Other Delights **2.30** Queens of Jazz: The Joy and Pain of the Jazz Divas **3.30** Sounds of the 70s 2: Art House Glam – Get in the Swing **3.40** Close

ITV2

11.45 Ashley Roberts: The Hot Desk **11.55** Totally You've Been Framed! **12.55** You've Been Framed! **1.25 Film:** Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **3.10 Film:** The Lost World: Jurassic Park (1997) **5.45 Film:** Star Wars: Episode V – The Empire Strikes Back (1980) **8.15** Britain's Got More Talent **9.20** Funniest Ever You've Been Framed! **10.00** Viral Tap **10.45** Britain's Got Talent **12.00** Britain's Got More Talent **1.05** Mom **1.50** The Vampire Diaries **2.35** Life's Funniest Moments

ITV3

11.40 Agatha Christie's Marple **1.45** Rosemary & Thyme **2.45** Live French Open Tennis. **8.00** Lewis **12.05 Film:** The Human Stain (2003) **2.15** William and Mary **3.15** Judge Judy **3.35** ITV3 Nightscreen **4.00** Emmerdale

ITV4

3.00 Live Indian Premier League Cricket. **7.55** French Open Tennis **9.00 Film:** Serenity (2005) **11.25 Film:** Child's Play 2 (1990) **1.10** Monaco Historic Grand Prix 2014 **2.10** Motorway Patrol **2.40** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

12.30 Youngers **1.00** Made in Chelsea **2.05** Revenge **3.00** How I Met Your Mother **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **5.00** The Tomorrow People **6.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** Troy **8.00 Film:** Romancing the Stone (1984) **10.10** The Inbetweeners **11.10** The Big Bang Theory **12.10** Rude Tube **1.15** Troy **2.15** Rules of Engagement **3.00** 2 Broke Girls

Film4

11.00 The Long Arm (1956) **1.00** Leap Year (2010) **2.55** Warlords of Atlantis (1978) **4.50** Big (1988) **6.55** Step Up (2006) **9.00** Friends with Benefits (2011) **11.10** Fatal Attraction (1987) **1.30** The Serpent (2006) **3.55** Close

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Film Choices

MONDAY
Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides, BBC1, 8pm
Captain Jack Sparrow sets sail in search of the legendary fountain of youth. His mission puts him up against a mysterious woman from his past, old enemy Barbossa, now in the employ of the British Navy, and the most feared pirate of them all, the dreaded Blackbeard. Fantasy adventure sequel, with Johnny Depp, Penelope Cruz and Ian McShane. (2011)

TUESDAY
White Oleander, BBC1, 11.45pm
A 15-year-old girl's happy life is thrown into upheaval when her mother is sentenced to life imprisonment for murdering her lover. Astrid spends the rest of her adolescence drifting from one foster home to another, but her mother remains a constant influence in her life. Drama based on Janet Fitch's novel, starring Alison Lohman, Michelle Pfeiffer, Renee Zellweger, Robin Wright and Billy Connolly. (2002)

Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides, Monday, BBC1, 8pm

WEDNESDAY
Total Recall, ITV, 11.10pm
A construction worker pays to have fake memories of a dream holiday implanted into his brain, but discovers his mind has already been tampered with - apparently to erase his true identity as a secret agent from a colony on Mars. He journeys to the planet in search of the truth, but is drawn into a conflict between the tyrannical ruler and a rebel faction. Paul Verhoeven's sci-fi thriller, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. (1990)

THURSDAY
The Crossing Guard, BBC1, 11.35pm
A grieving father waits for the drink-driver who killed his daughter to get out of prison then tries to kill him. He fails, but his target is so guilt-ridden he believes he deserves to die in retribution for his crime. The pair agree to three days' grace to put their affairs in order, during which time both men face up to past mistakes and broken relationships. Sean Penn's drama, with Jack Nicholson, David Morse and Robin Wright. (1995)

FRIDAY
Casino Royale, ITV, 10.45pm
James Bond achieves his '007' status and is dispatched on the trail of Le Chiffre, an international criminal financing terrorist organisations around the world. Bond's investigation leads to a casino in Montenegro, where he takes part in a high-stakes poker game in a bid to bankrupt Le Chiffre and put an end to his plans. Spy thriller, directed by Martin Campbell and starring Daniel Craig in his first outing as 007. (2006)

Pick of the Week

Family matters to Gabriel in new series

Gabriel Byrne may have lived in the States for some time, but when he was offered the chance to return to Dublin for this new series, he jumped at it – and it's little wonder.

Based on John Banville's thrillers, the series has gone down a treat in its native, but now the Beeb has snapped it up, in a major Anglo-Irish co-production, we get to see for ourselves what all the fuss is about. And if you like your thrillers dark and mysterious, it won't disappoint.

Quirke opens in the late autumn of 1956, where a hungover city pathologist known only as 'Quirke' (we never get to know his Christian name) stumbles from a late-night party in the nurses' quarters. He hopes to sleep in his subterranean pathology lab. However, his adoptive brother, obstetric consultant Malachy Griffin, is at our hero's desk completing paperwork for Christine Falls, a recently deceased patient.

When Quirke returns the following morning, Christine's body is gone and the medical expert is curious about his brother's strange behaviour. Further investigation suggests Mal was the father of Christine's child, and he believes the youngster has been spirited away to America under the wing of the Catholic Church.

Quirke follows the trail to Boston, accompanying Mal's daughter – Quirke's niece Phoebe – on a last visit to her ailing grandfather. He eventually uncovers the truth about a family secret that has remained buried for nearly two decades.

Byrne explains of his alter ego: "I think that most people can relate to a wounded past. Some people are more adept at dealing with it, and some people are much more delicate and sensitive and I think Quirke is one of those people who hides his vulnerability and his pain underneath and exterior of detachment.

"His work as a pathologist; I always thought he was much at home among the dead than he is with the living and for him, in a strange way, the dead are still living creatures and he's the last one really to take care of them so that space where he works is very sacred to him."

It helps that Byrne's passionate about the genre in which the series falls, as he says: "Mystery and enigma are fascinating because it forces the audience to raise questions about the character. That's not to say that all characters are enigmatic and mysterious - some are very obvious - but I like the idea of hiding in plain sight and allowing the audience to play that game with you."

Like Jack Reacher fans smarting over the fact Tom Cruise played their giant of a literary hero a couple of years ago, fans of the Banville novels may take umbridge at the fact Gabriel isn't 6ft 4in, doesn't have the feet of a dancer or blond hair. It scarcely matters. Byrne is compelling in the lead, and with a supporting cast including Michael Gambon, you know you're in safe hands.

Gabriel Byrne heads the cast of Quirke, Sunday, BBC1, 9pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY
Britain's Got Talent
ITV, 7.30pm
Ant and Dec present the first live semi-final, which sees nine of the 45 chosen acts compete to impress the judges and secure the all-important viewers' vote. At stake is the chance to appear at this year's Royal Variety Performance and win a life-changing cash prize of £250,000, but first the contestants have to win one of two coveted places available in the final. And if things don't go to plan on stage, the hopefuls can still be buzzed off - so the pressure is on to prove they've got what it takes

What the Dambusters Did Next
Channel 5, 9pm
What better film for a Bank Holiday Monday than a rousing, fact-based wartime drama? The Dam Busters certainly meets that remit, and sure enough Channel 5 are treating us to that classic Michael Redgrave and Richard Todd flagwaver this evening. But have you ever wondered what became of the brave pilots of 617 Squadron after Operation Chastise, the famous May 1943 raids on the Ruhr and Eder valleys? This documentary combines archive footage, testimony from veterans and experts, and dramatic reconstructions to recap the events of 1943, and examine some of the squadron's subsequent missions. They include a daring night-time bombing raid on a strategically important canal, during which the crews faced a ferocious barrage of anti-aircraft defences.

TUESDAY
Welcome to Rio
BBC2, 9pm
You'd have to have been living under a very large, soundproofed rock to have not noticed that the world is football mad this year, thanks to the 2014 World Cup – and all eyes are on Rio de Janeiro. But this stunning series isn't about the football – it's about the lives of the city's residents, and the daily goings-on in the favelas. As Rio prepares for the World Cup and the Olympics, the Brazilian government has launched a military campaign to wrest control of the areas from drugs gangs; a process known as Pacification. This first instalment comes from one of the first favelas to be pacified, Cantagalo, and one of its residents, Rocky, is a delivery man who works everyday, hauling fridges, ovens and televisions on his shoulders, to support his family.

WEDNESDAY
Del Boys & Dealers
BBC1, 9pm
It's probably a bit unfair to describe the people featured on this programme as 'Del Boys.' You could, however, argue that some of them are a tad eccentric. Take Sharon and Al, for instance. They usually deal in novelty goods and use a hearse as their premier mode of transport – perhaps they're big fans of The Munsters. They're travelling to France in it this week, where they hope grab some great deals at a local auction, despite not knowing the lingo. Canterbury women Stevie and Denise have a more down-to-earth approach to raising funds – they bought a bundle of second-hand clothes at auction and are literally hoping to turn rags to riches via a market stall.

THURSDAY
Meet the Police Commissioner
Channel 4, 9pm
Just two years ago, police forces up and down the country felt the biggest shake-up for 50 years when elections resulted in the appointment of 41 Police and Crime Commissioners – a venture which cost £75million, but strangely enough, resulted in the lowest voting turnout since the Second World War. Consequently, the small turnout meant that some obscure, perhaps 'eccentric' candidates were voted in. This Cutting Edge documentary hears from Ann Barnes, Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent, who was initially against the introduction of PCCs, adamant that the whole idea was naïve. However, she later decided to offer herself forward as a potential for the role. Her first year in office has been tumultuous, to say the least...

Live International Football, Friday, ITV, 7.30pm

Burning Desire: The Seduction of Smoking
BBC2, 9.30pm
Despite a growing number of people trying to quit with latest trending aids, cigarettes are still big business. Given that, Peter Tayler is a man on a mission. In this new series, the journalist and documentary-maker travels to Australia to look at the industry's last-ditch attempt to prevent plain packaging. He is allowed rare access to the world's second biggest tobacco company, and explores the reason behind the fact that on a daily basis, thousands of young people around the world are still being seduced by the allure of smoking.

FRIDAY
Live International Football
ITV, 7.30pm
England welcome Peru to Wembley Stadium for their final home friendly before the World Cup. Roy Hodgson's men also have fixtures arranged with Ecuador and Honduras before their campaign in Brazil gets under way against Italy, and the players will be looking to ensure they put themselves in pole position to start against the Azzurri. Among those who will be particularly desperate to impress the manager are Raheem Sterling, Adam Lallana and Ross Barkley, who have all enjoyed strong Premier League campaigns but are yet to become regular starters for their country. The performances of left-backs Leighton Baines and Luke Shaw also seem likely to generate a lot of interest in the build-up to the finals, as their domestic form convinced Hodgson there was no place in the squad for long-time international stalwart Ashley Cole.

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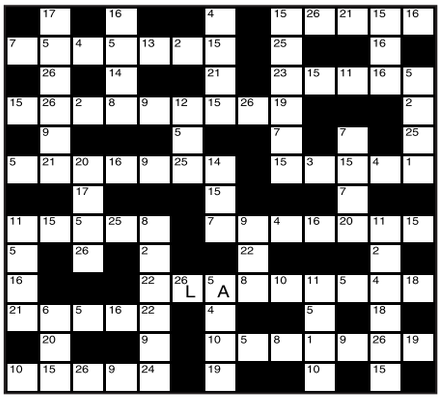
No.274

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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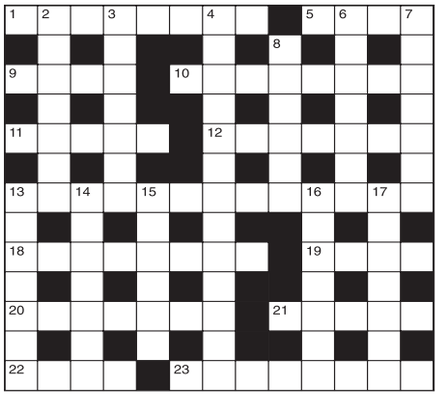
I	U	E	X	M	C	G	J	T	B	Y	K	A

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Do much better than pupils in the open air? (8)
5. She gives help to a thousand (4)
9. I object to article which is low (4)
10. Potentially explosive journal? (8)
11. The French doctor with no head for fruit (5)
12. Hanging around, monarch finds bird sound lacking in colour (7)
13. What Adam's ale might make an alcoholic? (2,4,2,5)
18. What the ark may have been for tourists? (8)
19. Helps, because I would be in it (4)
20. This flower could be a big one (7)
21. 11's other fruit (5)
22. The last big things in the car? (4)
23. Sound one's aitches like a buccaneer? (8)

Down

2. It's no good to reduce one's intake! (7)
3. Offer comfort at the organ? (7)
4. Letters from the lesser chief cities (5,8)
6. Nature worshipper provides its main problem (7)
7. Doctor on the brink of taking redhead on digger (7)
8. One vegetable may spoil a whole line (6)
13. Pleasant, like a loud story? (7)
14. Red gown badly treated (7)
15. Intense study in painting (6)
16. A graduate, true, is different - he's not professional! (7)
17. Extreme finish to the greater part (7)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Condescending (8)
5. Standard (4)
9. Presently (4)
10. Reveal (8)
11. Arbour (5)
12. Equipage (7)
13. Accidentally (13)
18. Roomy (8)
19. Left (4)
20. Increase (7)
21. Exclude (5)
22. Volume (4)
23. Extra (8)

Down

2. Exhausted (3-4)
3. Strive (7)
4. Continuous (13)
6. Sentinel (7)
7. Very much (7)
8. Uncommon (6)
13. Immediate (7)
14. Mixture (7)
15. Masked (6)
16. Disregard (7)
17. Ages back (4,3)

Sudoku

		9		8				
	6	5			2		8	
2			4	9				3
	4	1		7	3			5
			9		4		7	
7		3		6		2	9	
6				3	7			2
	8		6			1		
			5					8

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

3	6	5	7	4	8	2	9	1
7	1	8	6	2	9	3	5	4
9	4	2	1	5	3	7	6	8
6	9	3	5	7	1	8	4	2
2	7	4	8	3	6	9	1	5
8	5	1	2	9	4	6	7	3
4	8	7	9	1	2	5	3	6
5	3	6	4	8	7	1	2	9
1	2	9	3	6	5	4	8	7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Purest; 4 Lathes; 9 Richard Wagner; 10 Erratic; 11 Arrow; 12 Abase; 14 Study; 18 Cheer; 19 Low gear; 21 Make nothing of; 22 Server; 23 Sentry. Down: 1 Porter; 2 Record-breaker; 3 Start; 5 Adamant; 6 Hundredweight; 7 Screws; 8 Edict; 13 Strange; 15 Scamps; 16 Cloth; 17 Crafty; 20 Waive. QUICK - Across: 1 Climbs; 4 Sticky; 9 Recalcitrance; 10 Lenient; 11 Emend; 12 Begun; 14 Steps; 18 Adult; 19 Inflate; 21 Consideration; 22 Steady; 23 Leaned. Down: 1 Curdle; 2 Inconsequence; 3 Bulge; 5 Torment; 6 Contemplation; 7 Yields; 8 Mirth; 13 Untried; 15 Lances; 16 Miner; 17 Penned; 20 Flare.

Do you organise events?

Get your event listed on all the important sites and publications including The Guardian Guide, Time Out, The List and local press.

Simple, free, and all in one place.

Visit www.listora.me/2014 to list your next event.

PRESS ASSOCIATION Listora

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NOW ON

The Honda Approved Used Car Event
must end Bank Holiday Monday 26th May at 4.30pm

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Oldswinford

Hall Street
* Two bedroom house
* Lounge and Kitchen
* Cellar
* Good sized garden
* Conveniently situated
* NO UPWARD CHAIN
* EPC=D

£154,950

Oldbury

Oldacre Road
* Semi Detached
* Two Bedrooms
* Kitchen/Breakfast Room
* Rear Garden
* EPC=D

Offers in the region of £99,950

Oldbury

Edward Road
* Traditional Style Semi
* Three Bedrooms
* Through Living Room
* Conservatory
* Lovely Rear Garden
* Side Garage EPC=tbc

Offers in the region of £189,950

Halesowen

82 Greenhill Road
* Neutrally decorated house
* GREAT VALUE FOR MONEY!
* Two double bedrooms & 2 reception rooms * Modern kitchen with appliances
* Utility room with washing machine
* Upstairs bathroom & ground floor toilet
* GCH & DG windows * EPC = C

Monthly rent of £525
NO TENANCY APPLICATION FEES APPLY PROVIDING APPLICATIONS ARE RECEIVED BY 23RD MAY

Oldbury

Perry Court
Hagley Road West
* Ground Floor Retirement Flat
* Two Bedrooms
* Shower room
* No Chain
* Communal Gardens EPC=tbc

£64,895

Halesowen

Garland Crescent
* Extended Semi Detached House
* Three Bedrooms
* Roof Space
* Side Garage
* Breakfast Kitchen
* Two Reception Rooms
* Downstairs WC EPC=tbc

Offers in the region of £223,950

Quinton

Clay Drive
* End Terrace House
* Two Bedrooms
* Two Reception Rooms
* Conservatory
* Off road parking and Garage EPC=tbc

£124,950

Rowley Regis

Sandford Avenue
* Much Improved semi detached
* Three Bedrooms
* Garage
* Downstairs W.C
* Re-fitted kitchen and bathroom EPC=tbc

£115,000

Halesowen

Victoria Court
Binswood Road
* Spacious first floor flat
* Two bedrooms
* shower room
* Lounge with balcony
* Kitchen
* Communal gardens
* Communal off road parking
* Vacant possession available EPC =C

Offers in the region of £75,000

Oldbury

Tame Road
* Detached two bedroom bungalow
* Recently improved and situated close to Perryhill Road
* Two good sized bedrooms
* Well appointed bathroom with shower over bath * Fitted kitchen/breakfast room with oven, hob and cooker hood
* Garage and enclosed garden
* Gas boiler heating radiators. EPC = E

Offers in the region of £167,500

Rowley Regis

47 Carnegie Road
* 2 Bedroom apartment
* Located on Modern popular development
* Fitted kitchen with oven, hob and hood
* Garage *Gas CH * UPVC double glazing to windows * Private garden
* Available now! * EPC=B

Monthly rent of £575+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.

Halesowen

Newlands Drive
* Traditional style house
* 3 bedrooms and shower room
* Lounge, dining room & kitchen
* Large garage/utility area
* Good-sized gardens
* Gas boiler heating radiators
* Internal inspection recommended EPC=F

Offers in the region of £239,500

Stourbridge

Proposed Development
Park View Road & Careless Green
* Residential Development/Conversion Opportunity
* Planning permission for 3 houses
* Two with Two Bedrooms
* One with One Bedroom
* Off Road Parking

Offers in the region of £125,000

Oldbury

Hereford Road
* Ideal first purchase
* Tastefully presented accommodation
* Fitted kitchen/dining room
* Through lounge
* Three bedrooms * Bathroom
* Enclosed gardens
* Gas boiler heating radiators
* Internal inspection recommended EPC = C

Offers in the region of £125,000

Oldbury

LAST REMAINING PLOT!
Plot 6 Pottery Gardens
117 Pottery Road
* Three Bedroom Semi Detached
* Well Appointed Bathroom Ensuite Shower Room * Living Room Forming Lounge & Dining Area * Quality Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room with Oven, Hob & Extractor * Well Appointed Bathroom with Shower over Bath *Gardens *Off Road Parking EPC=B

£159,950

Bartley Green

Trimpley Road
* Mid terraced house
* Two bedrooms
* Lounge * Kitchen
* Lovely gardens
* Gas boiler heating radiators
* Double glazed windows EPC = D

Offers in the region of £79,950

Oldbury

Plot 3 Site of
46 George Road
* Link detached bungalow
* Two parking spaces
* Two bedrooms
* L Shaped lounge/dining area
* Quality fitted kitchen with host of appliances * Luxury bathroom with shower over bath
* Gas boiler heating radiators
* EPC = C

£185,000

Cradley Heath Old Hill

Flat Above
158 Halesowen Road
* Spacious 1st floor flat
* Large double bedroom with wardrobe
** SECURE GATED CAR PARK**
* Neutral decoration & DG windows
* Electric heating * Neutral carpets/floor coverings * MUST VIEW * EPC=E

Monthly rent of £365+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.

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34,091 sq ft

UNITS 4 & 5
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WEST BROMWICH, B70 0ST

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M5 (J1) within 3 miles
M6 (J10) approx 6 miles
Refurbished units

0121 544 2121

TO LET
bulleys.co.uk/wednesbury-one
20,015 sq ft

WEDNESBURY ONE
WEDNESBURY,
WS10 7NZ

Self contained detached unit
8m to eaves
M6 (J9) within 1.5 miles
J/A Halls commercial

0121 544 2121

TO LET
bulleys.co.uk/siddons
1,925 - 3,982 sq ft

SIDDONS FACTORY
ESTATE, WEST
BROMWICH, B70 0TB

Estate perimeter fencing
Roller shutter access
Night security and CCTV
M5 (J1) within 3 miles

0121 544 2121

FOR SALE / TO LET
bulleys.co.uk/royalehouse
15,927 sq ft

ROYALE HOUSE
THE WALLLOWS IE
BRIERLEY HILL, DY5 1QA

M5 (J3) approx 5.5 miles
Ground and first floor offices
Merry Hill within 2 miles
4.8m min eaves

0121 544 2121

TO LET
bulleys.co.uk/cleton
9,286 sq ft

UNIT 12,
CLETON BUSINESS PK
TIPTON, DY4 7TR

Warehouse with offices
4.2m eaves
Secure rear yard
J/A CBRE

0121 544 2121

Wolverhampton
01902 713333

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01952 292233

Oldbury
0121 544 2121

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OLDBURY

Broadway

A deceptive, well proportioned, 3 bedroomed semi detached property within this popular neighbourhood, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall, spacious lounge, kitchen, rear vestibule area (with downstairs w.c off), 3 bedrooms, bathroom, and rear garden. EPC rating F. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.

Offers around £129,950

SMETHWICK

Bearwood Road

A chance to acquire a spacious, well proportioned 3 bedroomed maisonette, conveniently situated for local shopping facilities and amenities, requiring internal inspection, having double glazing, and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall, attractive kitchen, spacious lounge, 3 bedrooms and re-fitted bathroom. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC rating E. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.

Offers around £109,950

OLDBURY

Wolverley Crescent

A well presented, spacious, thoughtfully improved 3 bedroomed family home, conveniently situated, requiring internal inspection, having double glazing, gas radiator heating, briefly comprising :- Entrance hall, delightful spacious lounge/dining area, re-fitted kitchen (with integral oven/hob, fridge/freezer and dishwasher), utility, 3 bedrooms, attractive bathroom, pleasant rear garden and off road parking at the rear. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.

Offers around £109,950

OLDBURY

Ethel Street

A well presented, deceptively spacious and thoughfully improved 2 bedroomed intermediate terraced property conveniently situated within this established neighbourhood, requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and briefly comprising :- Dining room, attractive lounge, fitted kitchen (with integral oven/hob), downstairs bathroom, 2 good sized double bedrooms, additional w.c (off landing), and pleasant rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.

Offers around £107,500

SMETHWICK

Hales Crescent

Deceptively spacious 3 bedroomed intermediate terraced property conveniently situated, requiring internal inspection, briefly comprising :- Entrance hall, lounge, separate dining room, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, shower room, and rear garden. MUST BE VIEWED. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC rating D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.

Offers around £97,500

WARLEY WOODS AREA

Abbey Road

An opportunity to acquire a deceptivly spacious, thoughtfully improved and well presented, 3 bedroomed traditional style semi detached property set within this popular neighbourhood, most convenient for Warley Woods/Golf course, requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and briefly comprising :- Porch, entrance hall, attractive lounge, separate dining room, fitted kitchen (with oven/hob), 3 bedrooms, re-fitted shower room, and pleasant good sized rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.

Offers around £169,950

BEARWOOD

Milcote Road

An opportunity to acquire a spacious, well presented and thoughtfully improved 2 bedroomed intermediate terraced property in this popular location, conveniently situated for local shopping facilities available within Bearwood Town Centre, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall, delightful lounge, separate dining room, fitted kitchen (with integral oven/hob), 2 good szied double bedrooms, spacious bathroom and pleasant rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.

Offers around £149,950

OLDBURY

Broadway Court, Pottery Road

An opportunity to acquire a spacious, modern, delightfully presented double bedroomed ground floor apartment conveniently situated for local amenities and facilities, having double glazing, approached via a communal entrance and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall, delightful spacious open plan lounge and kitchen area (with integral oven/hob, fridge/freezer and integrated washer/dryer), good sized double bedroom (having built in wardrobes), attractive bathroom, communal garden and allocated/visitor parking (set behind communal electric gates). VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating C. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345

Offers around £94,500

OLDBURY

Causeway Green Road

A deceptively spacious, well proportioned 2 bedroomed intermediate terraced property conveniently situated for local shopping facilities and amenities, requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and briefly comprising :- Front reception room, rear reception room, kitchen, downstairs bathroom, 2 good sized double bedrooms and rear garden area. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC rating D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.

Offers around £83,500

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DUDLEY

Fully fitted hair salon in a popular location. To include mirrors, trolleys and colouring trays/ trolleys, Reception Desk and Chairs, Kitchen is at rear and Kitchen and Toilet facilities are shared. Must be viewed to be appreciated. Rental does not include Business Rates.

Bradford Road £400 p.c.m

TIPTON

Well presented mid terrace in popular location. Accomodation comprises entrance hall, lounge with fireplace, 2 double bedrooms, family bathroom, driveway and private rear garden.

Roland Hill Drive £525.00

TIVIDALE

Fully refurbished to a high standard, we are offering this semi-detached house in a much sort after location. Accomodation comprises, entrance hall, lounge with bay window, open plan kitchen and diner, 2 double bedrooms, garden at rear. Front driveway and side access. Must be viewed. No upward Chain.

Elm Terrace £119.950

BIRMINGHAM

Recently redecorated flat with communal entrance area and private reception hall lounge 2 bedrooms kitchen and bathroom.

Athol Close £395 p.c.m

TIPTON

Grnd. FLR FLAT /MODERN FITTED KITCHEN/ LOUNGE AREA/LIVING SPACE/ DBLE BEDROOM /BATHROOM/ WC/ COMMUNAL GARDENS

ELIZABETH WALK £335 PCM

TIPTON

Well presented first floor flat above florist in high street location. Accomodation comprises entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, bathroom. Storage Heating.

OWEN STREET £395 PCM

PERRY BARR

Redecorated trad terrace in pop location with lounge and open plan kitchen. Shower room downstairs has been refitted 3 dble beds, private rear garden. Available immediately.

Wellhead Lane £560 p.c.m

www.timothydaniels.co.uk info@timothydaniels.co.uk

Property

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Contact: matthew.kitson@brutonknowles.co.uk BK code:2561

A WELL-presented four-bedroomed detached house in Clipper View, Edgbaston, Birmingham is a modern style property set in a quiet cul-de-sac.

The property, which is convenient for walks around the nearby Edgbaston Reservoir, is for sale through Robert Oulsnam estate agents at £222,500 with no chain.

It features an entrance porch, lounge with wood-effect flooring, contemporary-styled breakfast kitchen with light wood effect units and contrasting working surfaces and wood-effect flooring.

There is a conservatory with French-style doors out to a pleasant rear garden and wood effect flooring.

There are four bedrooms (one on the ground floor with an en-suite shower room), bathroom, outside utility and a driveway.

For further information contact Robert Oulsnam on 0121 4299986 or visit www.oulsnam.net

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Kirkham Way
- Three bed detached
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- Master bedroom with ensuite
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£595pcm

Tipton
Potters Brook
- First floor purpose built apartment
- Two bedrooms
- DG and GCH
- Allocated parking
- Tipton office
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- Available immediately

£450pcm

Tipton
Middle Meadow
- Two bed apartment
- Fitted kitchen incl oven and hob
- GCH & DG
- Allocated parking
- Tipton office
- Available immediately
- 0121 520 2255

£450pcm

Wednesbury
Tame Crossing
- Two bed ground floor flat
- Lounge
- Fitted kitchen
- DG
- En suite with shower
- Allocated parking
- Communal grounds

£525pcm

Sedgley
Rodway Close
- Three bed detached
- Quiet cul-de-sac location
- Conservatory
- Spacious lounge with dining area
- Fully fitted modern kitchen

£750pcm

Sedgley
Crowesbridge Mews
- Three bed detached property
- Fitted kitchen
- Conservatory
- Bathroom with shower
- Guest W/C
- Utility room

£750pcm

The Straits
Tennyson Road
- One bed ground floor apartment
- Fully fitted kitchen with appliances
- GCH & DG
- Bathroom with bath and

£450pcm

Walsall
Wrexham Avenue
- Three bed semi
- GCH & DG
- Newly fitted carpets
- Kitchen with appliances
- Landscaped gardens
- Bathroom with shower
- Available immediately
- Energy Rating - D

£495pcm

Walsall
Warren Place
- Traditional three bed town house style property
- Double glazed windows
- Gas central heating
- Luxury bathroom with shower
- Pleasant front and rear

£550pcm

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SKITTS
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FEATURED PROPERTY

EPC: C

WEDNESBURY
BERKSHIRE CRESCENT

- IMMACULATELY PRESENTED SEMI DETACHED
- TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- ATTRACTIVE KITCHEN & BATHROOM FACILITIES
- THROUGH LOUNGE/DINER WITH FRENCH DOORS
- CONDENSING CENTRAL HEATING
- DOUBLE GLAZING & CAVITY WALL INSULATION

OFFERS £114,950

PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

NEW

EPC C

WEDNESBURY
PEMBERTON CRESCENT

- THREE BEDROOM LINK DETACHED
- LOUNGE
- OPEN PLAN KITCHEN/DINING ROOM
- UTILITY
- CENTRAL HEATING & DOUBLE GLAZING

OFFERS £154,950

MANAGERS CHOICE

EPC: C

WEDNESBURY
OLD COLLEGE DRIVE

- FOUR BED THREE STOREY TOWN HOUSE
- SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION
- LOVELY MASTER WITH EN SUITE
- DOUBLE GLAZING & CENTRAL HEATING
- WELL PROPORTIONED ACCOMMODATION
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

OFFERS £164,950

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NEW

EPC: C

HYDES ROAD
WEDNESBURY

- GROUND FLOOR TWO BEDROOM APARTMENT
- LOUNGE & KITCHEN
- SHOWER ROOM
- CONDENSING CENTRAL HEATING
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- IDEAL FIRST TIME PURCHASE
- EARLY VIEWING IS RECOMMENDED

Offers £84,950

NEW

EPC: C

WHARFEDALE STREET
WEDNESBURY

- BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED TERRACE HOME
- TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- CONDENSING CENTRAL HEATING & DOUBLE GLAZING
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- RE FITTED KITCHEN & BATHROOM
- REQUIRES INSPECTION TO APPRECIATE
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

Offers £96,950

NEW

EPC: E

ROUGH HAY ROAD
WEDNESBURY

- TERRACE HOME IN ESTABLISHED LOCATION
- ENJOYING GENEROUS CORNER PLOT
- CENTRALLY HEATED
- THROUGH LOUNGE/DINING ROOM
- NO UPWARD CHAIN
- COMPETITIVELY PRICE
- IDEAL FIRST PURCHASE

Offers £79,950

NEW

EPC: C

BAGNALLS WHARF
WEDNESBURY

- TWO YEAR OLD SEMI DETACHED
- SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION
- 3 EXCELLENT PROPORTIONED BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM, EN SUITE AND FITTED CLOAKS
- LOUNGE & DINING ROOM
- DRIVEWAY AND GARAGE
- KITCHEN WITH APPLIANCES

Offers £152,500

REDUCED

EPC: B

KING STREET
WEDNESBURY

- TWO BEDROOM GROUND FLOOR APARTMENT
- EN SUITE TO MASTER AND FITTED WARDROBES
- FITTED KITCHEN WITH APPLIANCES
- ALLOCATED PARKING
- D/G & ELECTRIC HEATING
- FORMER SHOW HOME •NO UPWARD CHAIN

£89,950

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EPC: E

GRANGE ROAD
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- LARGE DINING KITCHEN
- SPACIOUS BATHROOM
- SEPARATE WC
- WALKING DISTANCE OF TOWN CENTRE

OFFERS £89,995

REDUCED

EPC: B

SYDNEY CLOSE
WEST BROMWICH

- THREE BED END TOWN HOUSE
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- DOWNSTAIRS WET ROOM
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- DOUBLE GLAZING & CENTRAL HEATING
- LOVELY FAMILY HOME

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REDUCED

EPC: C

WILLENHALL STREET
WEDNESBURY

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- LOUNGE AND FITTED KITCHEN
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- CENTRAL HEATING & DOUBLE GLAZING
- ENCLOSED LEVEL LAWN TO REAR
- IDEAL FIRST TIME PURCHASE
- VACANT POSSESSION

OFFERS OVER £105,000

REDUCED

EPC: C

VICTORY AVENUE
DARLASTON

- THREE BED SEMI DETACHED
- LOUNGE & DINING ROOM
- KITCHEN, UTILITY & CLOAKS
- DOUBLE GLAZING & CENTRAL HEATING
- VEHICULAR ACCESS TO REAR & GARAGE
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

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The conservatory has tile effect laminate flooring while the utility room has vinyl flooring and access to the garage. Upstairs the bathroom includes a bath with a shower over, a wash basin, wc, part tiled walls and laminate flooring.

Three of the four bedrooms overlook the rear. Contact Bartrams on 0121 6019370 or visit www.bartrams.com

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LIGHTWOODS HILL, BEARWOOD

MUCH IMPROVED 3 storey home overlooking WARLEY WOODS. REFITTED 24ft breakfast kitchen & 2 LARGE reception rooms. 5 DOUBLE bedrooms over top 2 floors. REFITTED family bathroom & REFITTED en suite shower. Driveway to front. Rear garden having PRIVATE SOUTHERLY aspect. UPVC DG & GCH. EPC rating: D Ref: D1424

£365,000 Ref: D1424

GOODWYN AVENUE, OLDBURY

EXTENDED home in CUL-DE-SAC location & having LARGE lawn rear garden. 21ft lounge, separate dining room & CONSERVATORY. Fitted kitchen & D/S shower room/utility. REFITTED family bathroom & 3 LARGE bedrooms on 1st floor. 2 FURTHER bedrooms on 2nd floor. GARAGE & driveway to front. UPVC DG & GCH fitted. EPC rating: D Ref: D1358

£235,000 Ref: D1358

MEADOW ROAD, QUINTON

SPACIOUS MODERN end terrace town house with PARKING. Kitchen with built in appliances, DWC, Lounge & conservatory/dining room with French doors to garden. MASTER BEDROOM WITH ENSUITE 3 further DOUBLE BEDROOMS, & family bathroom. Rear garden. GCH, UPVC DBG. EPC Rating: C Ref: D1453

£184,950 Ref: D1453

FOXHOLLIES DRIVE, HALESOWEN

DETACHED modern home in CUL-DE-SAC location. 14ft lounge, 16ft kitchen diner & downstairs WC. REFITTED family bathroom & 3 bedrooms on 1st floor. GARAGE & driveway giving off road parking. SOUTHERLY rear garden. UPVC DG & gas central heating. EPC rating: D Ref: D1419

£179,950 Ref: D1419

GREENACRES, BARTLEY GREEN

DETACHED & WELL PRESENTED modern family home. Lounge & separate dining room. FITTED kitchen & downstairs WC. 3 bedrooms with FITTED wardrobes & family bathroom. DRIVEWAY to front & lawn garden to rear & side. UPVC DG & GCH. EPC rating: C Ref: D1420

£176,950 Ref: D1420

WEST BOULEVARD, QUINTON

LARGE 4 bedroom semi-detached home with gated DRIVEWAY. 25ft lounge diner & 14ft 9 kitchen. Having a downstairs bathroom. Four bedrooms & WC on first floor. Driveway giving off road parking for SEVERAL VEHICLES. Lawn garden to rear. Gas central heating & majority double glazing. EPC rating: D Ref: D1454

£149,950 Ref: D1454

CHICHESTER DRIVE, QUINTON

WELL PRESENTED end terraced home overlooking PARK to rear. REFITTED 12ft kitchen & 18ft lounge diner. REFITTED family bathroom & 3 good size bedrooms. GARAGE & driveway. Lawn rear garden with PRIVATE aspect. Gas central heating & UPVC double glazing. EPC rating: C Ref: D1435

£149,950 Ref: D1435

RIDGACRE RD WEST, QUINTON

Traditional semi-det home with DRIVEWAY giving off road parking. Rear garden having SOUTHERLY aspect. Dining area leading to kitchen with separate lounge to front. REFITTED bathroom & 3 bedrooms. UPVC double glazing & gas central heating. EPC rating: Ref: D1457

£145,000 Ref: D1457

PINEWOOD DRIVE, BARTLEY GREEN

EXTENDED family home on CORNER PLOT position. GARAGE & driveway - potential to extend to side. 16ft lounge diner & 11ft breakfast kitchen. Benefits from d/s WC. 3 GOOD size bedrooms & family bathroom. Gas central heating & double glazing fitted. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC rating: D Ref: D1449

£144,950 Ref: D1449

BREWERS SQUARE, EDGBASTON

SPACIOUS top floor apartment in SOUGHT AFTER development off City Road. 14ft lounge leading to FITTED kitchen. 2 DOUBLE bedrooms, en suite shower room & further family bathroom. ALLOCATED parking to rear. Gas central heating & UPVC double glazing. EPC rating: C Ref: D1456

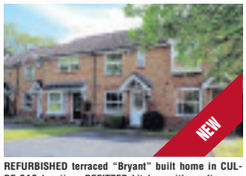
£137,950 Ref: D1456

HAGLEY RD WEST, OLDBURY

EXTENDED semi detached home with GARAGE. 26ft 11 max lounge/dining room & playroom/bed 4. EXTENDED fitted kitchen & downstairs WC. 3 bedrooms & bathroom. Well proportioned enclosed rear gardens & garage. Fitted with UPVC double glazing (in part). Benefiting from gas central heating (combi boiler). Well positioned for local amenities & public transport EPC rating: E Ref: D1377

137,500 Ref: D1377

WOODRIDGE AVENUE, QUINTON



REFURBISHED terraced "Bryant" built home in CUL-DE-SAC location. REFITTED kitchen with appliances. 15ft lounge diner overlooking PRIVATE lawn garden. 2 DOUBLE bedrooms & bathroom. 2 allocated PARKING spaces. Newly fitted UPVC double glazing (except front door). Benefits from gas central heating. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC rating: C Ref: D1451

£129,950 Ref: D1451

BOLNEY ROAD, QUINTON

EXTENDED & well presented home. DRIVEWAY to front for off road parking. REFITTED & extended dining kitchen. REFITTED bathroom with white suite & shower. 2 DOUBLE bedrooms. Having D/S WC. Gas central heating & UPVC double glazing fitted. Lawn gardens to rear. ● COMPLETION APPROX END OF OCTOBER ●. EPC rating: E Ref: D1448

£104,950 Ref: D1488

CLEWLEY GROVE, QUINTON

REFURBISHED 1st floor maisonette with BALCONY with great views over PARKLAND. REFITTED breakfast kitchen with appliances. 14ft lounge to front. REFITTED shower room & REFITTED WC. 3 DOUBLE bedrooms to rear. NO UPWARD CHAIN. Gas central heating fitted. Gardens to side & rear. EPC rating: D Ref: D1455

£99,950 Ref: D1455

EDEN GARDENS, ROWLEY REGIS

SPACIOUS ground floor apartment with PARKING to rear. NO UPWARD CHAIN Occupying a cul-de-sac position in MODERN block close to shops and amenities. 22ft Open plan LIVING AREA with lounge/diner and kitchen. Master bedroom with fitted wardrobes, second bedroom & bathroom. Modern electric heating, UPVC DBG & ALARM, SECURE INTERCOM ENTRY SYSTEM. EPC Rating C Ref: D1251

£94,950 Ref: D1251

THE LAURELS, OLDBURY

SPACIOUS 1st floor apartment with ALLOCATED PARKING. 17ft lounge diner & FITTED 10ft kitchen. 2 DOUBLE bedrooms & a box room. Bathroom with shower cubicle also. Gas central heating & UPVC double glazing. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC rating: C Ref: D1376

£92,950 Ref: D1376

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Bearwood 122 Poplar Rd Bearwood B66 4AP

Hales Crescent, Smethwick £97,500

A mid terraced property having gas central heating and double glazing where specified, the accommodation comprises: entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, shower room. EPC: TBA

Beaks Farm Gardens, Edgbaston £194,950

A family home comprising: porch, entrance hallway, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, upstairs bathroom, double glazed and centrally heated where specified, front driveway, rear garden, garage. EPC: D

Linden Road, Smethwick £165,000

An end terrace property occupying a corner plot, having gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, store room, three bedrooms, bathroom, gardens and off-road parking. EPC: D

Poplar Avenue, Edgbaston £239,950

A Victorian mid terraced villa with gas central heating and double glazing and comprising: entrance porch, entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen/ breakfast, cloakroom, five bedrooms, bathroom, self contained one bedroom flat to top floor, parking and gardens. EPC: D

Brookfield Road, Hockley £139,950

A three storey Victorian end terraced property in a popular and convenient residential location, having gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, four bedrooms, bathroom, cellar, garden, private parking. EPC: E

Lime Grove,Windmill Lane, Smethwick £89,950

A WELL MAINTAINED end terraced property having gas central heating where specified and comprising of one reception room, kitchen, downstairs shower room and two bedrooms. Garden to rear. EPC: D

Barrett Street, Smethwick £180,000

A spacious end townhouse, having gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, cloakroom, three bedrooms, master en-suite, secure parking and gardens. No upward chain. EPC: TBA

Heath Green Road, Winson Green £95,000

A mid terraced property in a popular and convenient residential location. Having gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: lounge, dining room, kitchen, cellar, two bedrooms, bathroom, garden to rear. EPC: TBA

Gilbert Road, Smethwick £133,000

A mid terraced property having gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: two reception rooms, kitchen, shower room, three bedrooms, all with en-suite toilet. Garden to rear. EPC: D

Corisande Road, Selly Oak £150,000

A mid terraced propertyhaving gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: two reception rooms, kitchen, shower room, three bedrooms, all with en-suite toilet. Garden to rear. EPC: D

South Road, Hockley £225,000

A five bedroomed, mid townhouse comprising of master bedroom with en-suite, lounge, large kitchen/ diner, cloakroom, second floor shower room and house bathroom, off-road parking and rear garden. EPC: C

Oldbury 70/76 Birmingham Street Birmingham B69 4EB

The Lenches, Shelsley Av-Oldbury £235,000

EPC Rating C - A SIX BEDROOMED modern detached property briefly comprising of hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, ground floor w.c, bathroom, garage, off road parking and rear garden. Double glazing and central heating where specified. ●NO UPWARD CHAIN●

St Annes Cottage, Rowley Regis £220,000

EPC Rating D - An EXTENSIVE detached family home located in the POPULAR Rowley Village area and comprising of two reception room, fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, conservatory, five first floor bedroom, family bathroom, separate shower room, driveway, car port, rear garage and garden.

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Dudley Road East, Tividale £170,000

EPC Rating C - A very well presented four bedroom DETACHED EXECUTIVE home comprising of two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, four bedrooms, master with ensuite, family bathroom, driveway, garage and rear garden. Double glazing and central heating where specified. ●●NO UPWARD CHAIN●●

Newbury Lane, Oldbury £130,000

EPC Rating Awaited - A GENEROUS double fronted semi detached family home comprising of lounge, kitchen/ diner, ground floor w.c, three first floor bedrooms, family bathroom, driveway, garage and rear garden. Double glazing and central heating where specified. This property comes with NO UPWARD CHAIN

Titford Road, Oldbury £115,000

EPC Rating C - A three bedroom semi detached family home in need of some modernisation and comprising of two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, three first floor bedrooms, family bathroom and delightful rear garden. Double glazing and central heating where specified. ●●NO UPWARD CHAIN●●

Tower Road, Tividale £114,995

EPC RATING Awaited - A three bedroomed semi detached property briefly comprising of two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, first floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden and NO UPWARD CHAIN.

Staulton Green, Oldbury £85,000

EPC Rating D - POTENTIAL F.T.B or INVESTMENT. A well presented END terraced property in need of slight modernisation and having a pleasant location set back from the road. The house comprises of entrance hall, lounge / dining room, fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, ground floor w.c, three first floor bedrooms, family bathroom, front

Silverton Road, Smethwick £84,950

EPC Rating E - A two bedroomed VICTORIAN STYLE end townhouse briefly comprising of two reception rooms, ground floor bathroom, kitchen, rear garden. Double glazing and radiators where specified. ●NO UPWARD CHAIN●

Oldbury £97,500

We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £95,000 on the above property.

Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before exchange of contracts take place.

The Energy Performance Certificate Rating is D.

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Grayling Close, Wednesbury £215,000

Situated in a secluded position VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED on this well presented four bedroom family residence briefly comprising of, uPVC double glazing and gas central heating (as specified) entrance hall, lounge, dining area, fitted kitchen, guest cloakroom, conservatory, en-suite to master bedroom, garage and off road parking.

Oakeswell Street, Wednesbury £215,000

A spacious four bedroom detached property briefly comprising of, entrance hall, ground floor WC, lounge, dining area, fitted kitchen, study/playroom, utility room, first floor family bathroom, master bedroom with en-suite, enclosed rear garden with workshop and block paved drive-way. EPC Rating D

Wood Green Road, Wednesbury £220,000

EARLY INSPECTION ADVISED to appreciate this substantial three bedroom detached family residence briefly comprising of, reception hallway, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, ground floor wet room, first floor bathroom, well established rear garden, garage and driveway for off road parking. EPC Rating E

Wood Green Road, Wednesbury £185,000

A deceptively spacious traditional style four bedroom mid villa with accommodation over three floors benefiting from no upward chain and briefly comprising of two reception rooms, cellar, re-fitted kitchen, rear extension with shower area and WC, conservatory, family bathroom and detached garage to the rear. EPC rating F

Elwell Street, Wednesbury £180,000

An immaculately presented former show home two and half storey three bedroom end town house benefiting from no upward chain and features, open plan lounge with orangery, master bedroom with dressing room and en-suite shower room, garage and off road parking. EPC Rating B.

Corporation Street, Wednesbury £129,950

An extended four bedroom semi-detached property briefly comprising of, uPVC double glazing and gas central heating (as specified) through lounge, breakfast kitchen, first floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden, drive-way providing off road parking and garage. Energy Rating D.

Heathfield Lane West, Wednesbury £120,000

VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED on this much improved three bedroom semi-detached property briefly comprising of, majority double glazing and gas central heating (as specified), lounge, re-fitted kitchen, re-fitted ground floor bathroom, sun room, first floor WC, enclosed rear garden, drive-way providing off road parking. EPC Rating C.

Dangerfield Lane, Wednesbury £117,000

A well presented three bedroom semi-detached briefly comprising of, uPVC double glazing and gas central heating (as specified) lounge, breakfast kitchen, first floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden, off road parking. EPC rating D.

Connaught Avenue, Wednesbury £100,000

Situated in a cul-de-sac location a two bedroom mid-terrace property briefly comprising of, uPVC double glazing and gas central heating (as specified) entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen/diner, first floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden, drive-way providing off road parking. EPC Rating E.

West Bromwich 3 Astle Park West Bromwich B70 8NS

Devereux Road, West Bromwich £150,000

A re-modernised 3 bedroom semi detached property,briefly comprising of double glazing,central heating,lounge,dining area,fitted kitchen,downstairs WC,first floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden,drive-way providing off road parking.EPC RATING D

Trotters Lane, West Bromwich £119,950

A traditional 3 bedroom semi detached property,briefly comprising of central heating, double glazing, through lounge,extended kitchen,conservatory, upstairs family bathroom, off road parking NO UPWARD CHAIN EPC RATING D

3 Ron Davis Close, SMETHWICK, West Midlands, B66 3AE.

We would advise that an offer has been made for the above property in the sum of £80,250. Any person wishing to increase on this offer should notify the agents of their best offer prior to exchange of contracts. Connells - 3 Astle Park, West Bromwich, B70 8NS EPC RATING D

Tame Street, West Bromwich £149,950

A modern 3 bedroom semi detached property,briefly comprising of downstairs cloakroom,kitchen,garage,through lounge,ensuite to master bedroom,family bathroom,central heating and double glazing (where specified), off road parking, garage. EPC RATING C

Marsh Lane, West Bromwich £75,000

A 3 bedroom mid terrace property, offering 2 reception rooms,breakfast room,store room,family bathroom,kitchen, part double glazing,garage NO UPWARD CHAIN EPC RATING G

Church Vale Mews, West Bromwich £105,000

A modern 3 bedroom semi detached property,briefly comprising of downstairs cloakroom,kitchen,garage,through lounge,ensuite to master bedroom,family bathroom,central heating and double glazing (where specified), off road parking, garage. EPC RATING D

Heath Lane, West Bromwich £104,950

A 3 bedroom semi detached property,briefly comprising of double glazing,central heating,lounge,fitted kitchen,downstairs bathroom,enclosed rear garden,driveway providing off road parking. NO UPWARD CHAIN EPC RATING D

Whitgreave Street, West Bromwich £82,500

A 2 bedroom semi detached property, offering,double glazing central heating (where specified), lounge area, dining area,kitchen,downstairs bathroom, enclosed rear garden, driveway providing off road parking. ●●● NO UPWARD CHAIN ●●● EPC RATING C

Peppercorn Place, West Bromwich £70,000

A Ground Floor Apartment set back on a quiet no through road, conveniently situated within close proximity of Sandwell Hospital,near to West Bromwich Town Centre. The property comprises of double glazing, central heating,secure communal entrance,lounge,fitted kitchen, one bedroom and bathroom. NO UPWARD

Watery Lane, Tipton £169,950

A canal side 3 bedroom detached property located within a cul de sac,offering spacious lounge,fitted kitchen,family bathroom,double glazing,central heating (where specified) and garage EPC RATING D

Temple Meadows Road, West Bromwich £155,000

A traditional 3 bedroom semi detached property in need of modernisation,located in a sought after area of West Bromwich and close to Sandwell Valley and Sandwell Hospital,offering double glazing, through lounge,kitchen,family bathroom,off road parking. ●●● NO UPWARD CHAIN ●●● EPC RATING TBC

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- No Upward Chain, Freehold

£134,950

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- Two reception Rooms
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- No Upward Chain
- Freehold

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- Three Reception Rooms
- Off Road Parking, Freehold
- EPC RATING E

£274,950

HOLLYHEDGE ROAD, B71 3AA

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- Four Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Conservatory
- Garage, Freehold

£289,950

ORCHARD ROAD, WS5 4HY

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- Three Bedrooms
- Conservatory
- Central Heating
- EPC RATING D

£144,950

WHITEGREAVE STREET, B70 9BB

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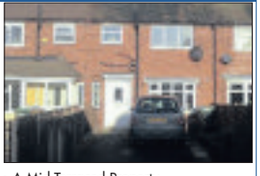
- Three Bedrooms
- Double Glazing & Central Heating
- Off Road Parking & Rear Garden
- EPC RATING F

£124,950

BASSETT ROAD, WS10 0HH



- A Mid Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Majority Double Glazing
- Central Heating
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£94,950

BROADFIELD CLOSE, B71 3EU

- An End Terraced Property
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- Central Heating
- Garage At Rear
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- EPC RATING D

£149,950

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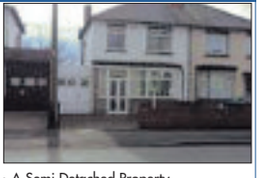
- Six Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms And Freehold
- Garage At Rear, Freehold
- EPC RATING F

£299,950

HALL GREEN ROAD, B71 3JS



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- EPC RATING F

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- Freehold
- EPC RATING C

£149,950

ARLINGTON ROAD, B71 1AA

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Kitchen/Diner
- Two Reception Rooms
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£179,950

CHERRY TREE AVENUE, WS5 4JL

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Central Heating, Freehold
- EPC RATING D

£145,000

BEACONVIEW ROAD, B71 3PG

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- Apartment
- Credit Checks Required
- £600 Deposit
- Available To View Now

£600 PCM £600 DEPOSIT

PENNYHILL LANE, B71 3RW

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Central Heating
- EPC RATING E

£169,950

PENNYHILL LANE, B71 3RW

- A Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Upstairs Family Bathroom
- Central Heating
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£184,950

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- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- SORRY NO DHSS

£ 600 pcm

Wednesbury
ST CHRISTOPHER DRIVE

- Three Bedrooms Semi Detached
- Garage
- Off Road Parking
- Gas Central Heating
- SORRY NO DHSS

£575 pcm

Wednesbury
GOLDBY DRIVE

- Three Bedrooms
- Guest W/C
- Master with En-Suite
- Garage
- SORRY NO DHSS

£550 pcm

Wednesbury
FREEMAN ROAD

- Three Bedrooms Terraced House
- Gas Central Heating
- Paved Rear Garded
- Fitted Kitchen
- SORRY NO DHSS

£500

Tipton
ANDREW ROAD

- Three Bedroom House
- End Of Terrace
- Electric Heating
- Double Glazing
- SORRY NO DHSS

£495 pcm

Wednesbury
THE AVENUE

- Second Floor Apartment
- Two Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- SORRY NO DHSS

£475 pcm

Wednesbury
MYVOD ROAD

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Double Glazing
- Fitted KItchen
- Electric Heating
- SORRY NO DHSS

£475 PCM

Tipton
THUNDERBOLT WAY

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Allocated Parking
- Electric Heating
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- SORRY NO DHSS

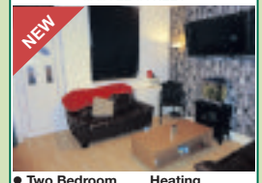
£475 pcm

West Bromwhich
CARDEN CLSOE

- Two Bedroom Mid Terraced
- Large Rear Garden
- Front And Rear Access
- Fitted Kitchen
- SORRY NO DHSS

£475 pcm

Darlaston
CASTLE STREET



- Two Bedroom End Terrace
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Utility Room
- DHSS ACCEPTED

£450 pcm

Tipton
MIDDLE MEADOW

- Two Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Allocated Parking
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- FITTED THROUGH OUT
- Gas central Heating
- SORRY NO DHSS

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- Entrance Hallway
- Lounge
- Designated Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

£425 pcm

Wednesbury
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- Lounge/Diner
- Family Bathroom
- SORRY NO DHSS

£ 425 pcm

Wednesbury
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Gas Central Heating
Fitted Kitchen
Close amenities
DHSS ACCEPTED

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- DHSS ACCEPTED

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- Off Road Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

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- Allocated parking and communal gardens
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- Warden controlled accommodation
- ENERGY RATING : C

OFFERS BASED ON £55,000 ALL SERIOUS OFFERS CONSIDERED

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9 BRANDHALL COURT, OLDBURY

- 1st/2nd floor maisonette
- Gated development
- 2 bedrooms
- Garage
- Ideal FTBs
- EPC : G

OFFERS BASED ON £84,950

Viewing : Bearwood Office

8 WEST HEATH ROAD, WINSON GREEN

- Gas centrally heated
- PVC double glazed
- 2 double bedrooms
- Fully tiled bathroom
- Two reception rooms

OFFERS BASED ON £89,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

15 CLIFTON ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Gas centrally heated
- Virtually PVC double glazed throughout
- Two double bedrooms
- Ideal FTBs
- EPC : D

OFFERS BASED ON £94,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

47 BOLNEY ROAD, QUINTON

- End town house
- 2 double bedrooms
- L shaped kitchen/dining room
- Off-street parking
- EPC : E

OFFERS BASED ON £104950

Viewing Bearwood Office

343 TITFORD ROAD, OLDBURY

- Ground floor flat
- Good motorway links
- 2 bedrooms
- Open plan lounge/kitchen

OFFERS BASED ON £107,500

Viewing Bearwood Office

2 SOUTHFIELD AVENUE, EDGBASTON

- End terraced villa
- Cul-de-sac location
- Recently refurbished
- 3 bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- EPC : E

OFFERS BASED ON £109,500

Viewing Bearwood Office

33 LYE CLOSE LANE, QUINTON

- 3 BEDROOMS
- Fully boarded loft
- Downstairs cloakroom
- EPC : D

OFFERS BASED ON £109,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

37 WESTBURY ROAD, EDGBASTON

- 2 double bedrooms
- Split level through lounge
- Ideal FTBs
- EPC : D

OFFERS BASED ON £109,950

VIEWING : BEARWOOD OFFICE

14 GILES ROAD, OLDBURY

- Corner semi-detached
- Gas centrally heated
- PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms
- Spacious lounge
- EPC : D

OFFERS BASED ON £119,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

242 DUDLEY ROAD, WINSON GREEN

- Gas central heating
- Three bedrooms & storage room
- Family bathroom
- Downstairs shower room
- Ideal family hom
- EPC : D

OFFERS BASED ON 124,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

57 ABBEY ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Centrally heated
- Double glazed
- Three bedrooms
- Through lounge/dining room
- Refitted kitchen & refitted bathroom
- EPC : D

Offers over £134,950

Viewing: Bearwood Office

121 PARGETER ROAD, BEARWOOD

- End terraced villa
- Two double bedrooms
- Spacious bathroom
- Lounge & dining room
- EPC : E

OFFERS BASED ON £139,750

Viewing Bearwood Office

199 BEARWOOD ROAD, SMETHWICK

- End terraced property
- PVC double glazed
- Gas centrally heated
- Three bedrooms
- Fully tiled bathroom
- Superb through lounge/ dining room
- Split level refitted kitchen/ breakfast room
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £139,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

40 UPPER MEADOW ROAD, QUINTON

- 3 bedrooms
- Gas centrally heated
- PVC double glazed
- Downstairs W.C.
- Cosmetic improvement
- EPC : D

OFFERS BASED ON £139,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

34 SWAN CRESCENT, OLDBURY

- Extended semi-detached
- 3 bedrooms
- Impressive through lounge
- 25ft detached garage
- EPC : D

OFFERS BASED ON £144,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

47 WESTMEAD DRIVE, OLDBURY

- Gas centrally heated
- Three bedrooms
- Fully tiled bathroom
- Open plan kitchen/diner
- Detached garage
- EPC : D

OFFERS BASED ON £144,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

25 SHERWOOD ROAD, BEARWOOD

- End terraced property
- Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
- 3 bedrooms and bathroom to first floor
- Through lounge/dining room
- Kitchen / breakfast room
- Ideal family home
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £155,950

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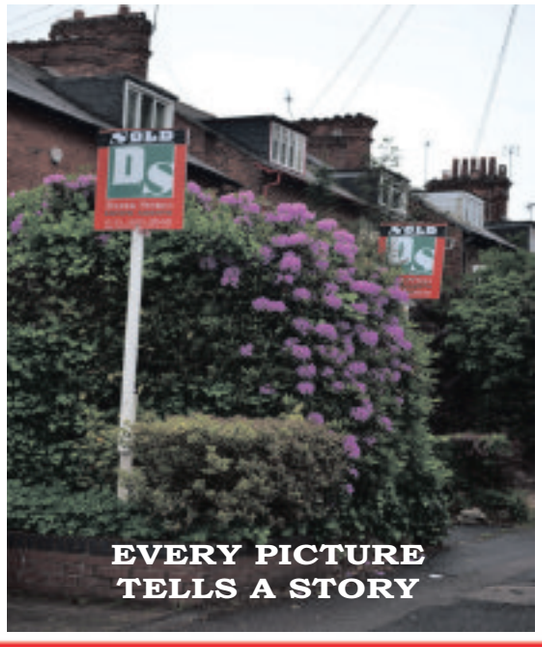

11 CASTLE ROAD EAST, OLDBURY

- Individually designed
- 4 double bedrooms
- En-suite bathroom
- Open plan family/dining room
- Superb dining kitchen
- Substantial double garage tained gardens AL INSPECTION ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL
- ENERGY RATING : F

OFFERS BASED ON £299,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

71 BARCLAY ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Sought after location
- Substantial villa
- FOUR double bedrooms
- Fully tiled bathroom
- 29ft through lounge
- MUST BE SEEN
- EPC : E

OFFERS BASED ON £310000

Viewing Bearwood Office

27 WAKEMAN DRIVE, TIVIDALE

- Modern detached
- 3 bedrooms, master with en-suite
- Dining room & lounge
- Side garage
- EPC : C

OFFERS BASED ON £174950

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NEW HOUSE, WIGORN ROAD

- Individually designed detached
- 4 double bedrooms
- 3 bathrooms
- Exceptional dining/kitchen
- Quality fittings throughout

OFFERS BASED ON £249,500

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Rutland Road, Bearwood
NEW PRICE

- Traditional Terrace Property
- Two Double Bedrooms
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £115,000

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Lightwoods Hill, Bearwood
- A Much Improved Semi Detached
- Many Period Features
- Two Reception Rooms
- No Upward Chain
- Five Double Bedrooms
- EP Rating TBC

Offers in the region of £369,950

Poplar Road, Bearwood

- Traditional End Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Off Road Parking & Garage
- EP Rating: E

Offers in the region of £154,950

Park Avenue, Smethwick

- Well Presented Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Breakfast Kitchen
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £85,000

Bell End, Rowley Regis
NEW PRICE

- Well Presented Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Conservatory
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £114,950

Edenhall Road, Quinton
NEW PRICE

- Most Attractive Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £229,950

NEW

Weston Road, Bearwood
- Well Presented End Terrace
- Useful Utility & Ground Floor WC
- Two Double Bedrooms
- No Upward Chain
- Two Reception Rooms
- EP Rating: E

Offers in the region of £134,950

Perry Hill Road, Oldbury

- A Most Attractive Semi
- Five Bedrooms
- En Suite to Master Bedroom
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £269,950

Titford Road, Oldbury

- Attractive End Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Two Double Bedrooms
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £104,950

Lodge Road, Smethwick
NEW PRICE

- Delightful Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating F

Offers in the region of £178,500

Clarendon Road, Smethwick
NEW PRICE

- A Traditional Mid Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £87,500

Southfield Avenue, Edgbaston
NEW PRICE

- A Traditional Mid Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Ideal First Purchase/Investment
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £94,950

Westbury Road, Edgbaston
NEW PRICE

- Much Improved Mid Terrace
- Two Bedrooms
- Superb First Floor Bathroom
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £122,500

Glaslyn Avenue, Rowley Regis

- Tastefully Presented Modern Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- En Suite to Master
- EP Rating B

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Colley Lane, Halesowen

- Modern Method of Auction
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- Two Double Bedrooms
- EP Rating E

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NEW
OLDBURY

BROADWAY
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Offers in the region of £157,950

NEW
OLDBURY

ST. JAMES ROAD
Detached family residence having been modernised within last 5 years. Porch entrance, reception hall, lounge, dining room, re-fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, central heating, double glazing, off road parking, garage and gardens. EPC Rating D
Offers in the region of £153,995

NEW
WEST BROMWICH

MONKGATE DRIVE
A modern semi-detached house built approximately 9 years ago in need of improvement. Entrance hall, cloakroom, lounge, dining kitchen, understairs store cupboard, three bedrooms, ensuite shower and family bathroom. Garage and parking. Rear garden. EPC Rating C
Price: £99,950

NEW
OLDBURY

LANGLEY MEDE, CROSSWELLS ROAD
Ground floor flat offering spacious accommodation and situated in a convenient location on ideal first time purchase or investment opportunity, we are pleased to offer this . Entrance hall, kitchen, lounge, two bedrooms, airing cupboard, bathroom. Gardens to front and side. Rear parking. EPC Rating D
Offers in the region of £69,950

OLDBURY

HARBORNE ROAD
A detached dormer bungalow situated in one of the area's premier locations closed to Warley Woods. Side entrance to large reception hall, lounge, study/bedroom 4, breakfast area, kitchen, utility, two bedrooms and bathroom to ground floor. Additional bedroom and bathroom to first floor, two garages to either side (one single, one double garage) potting shed, central heating, double glazing, two driveways. EPC Rating E
Offers in the region of £350,000

OLDBURY

LEAHOUSE GARDENS
Detached family residence in need of general updating and decoration. Reception hall, cloakroom, kitchen, dining room, lounge, four bedrooms, ensuite shower, family bathroom, garage,parking, rear garden. EPC Rating E
Offers in the region of £219,950

TIVIDALE

PACKWOOD ROAD
A well presented semi-detached house ideal for first time purchase. Entrance hall, lounge, dining kitchen, understairs store cupboard, three bedrooms, bathroom, Gas central heating and double glazing toGarage and off road parking. Established gardens. EPC Rating C
Offers in the region of £129,500

TIVIDALE

DARBYS HILL ROAD
Deceptively spacious semi-detached house. Entrance hall, through lounge/dining room, kitchen, utility room, understairs storage, wet room, two bedrooms, bathroom, established garden to rear, off-road parking. EPC Rating E
Offers in the region of £124,950

TIVIDALE

ASQUITH DRIVE
Modern semi-detached house offering an ideal first time purchase or investment opportunity. Entrance hall, kitchen, cloakroom, lounge, two bedrooms, bathroom. Two parking spaces and rear garden. EPC Rating C
Offers in the region of £99,950

REDUCED
SMETHWICK

SILVERTON ROAD
End terraced house in need of general updating situated in a popular residential location. Offering an ideal first time purchase or investment opportunity. Front sitting room, lobby, rear sitting room, kitchen, lobby, bathroom, two bedrooms. Rear garden. EPC Rating E
Price: £84,950

REDUCED
OLDBURY

KELLNER GARDENS
First floor flat built approximately 8 years ago by Taylor Wimpey. Communal entrance, vestibule, entrance hall, airing cupboard, bathroom, two bedrooms, lounge, kitchen. Communal gardens and allocated parking EPC Rating C
Offers in the region of £79,950

TIVIDALE

ASHTREE ROAD
Spacious first floor flat offering ideal first time purchase or investment opportunity. Vestibule, first floor landing, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom. Allocated parking and communal gardens. EPC Rating D
Offers in the region of £74,950

OLDBURY

LANGLEY GARDENS
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Offers in the region of £60,000

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Semi-detached, 2 Bedrooms, 1 Reception Room..... **Rent £525 pcm - Deposit £750** - EPC Rating D

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Mitsubishi makes mark with its new hybrid SUV

By Bill McCarthy

Plug-in hybrids are moving the game on in the war against excessive fuel consumption. Mitsubishi's new Outlander hybrid isn't the usual high-price, early adopter-friendly offering, as it boasts a sensible money price tag and real-world versatility

While Mitsubishi's latest Outlander offers a pleasingly revised and refined ownership experience, this model is a little different as it's a plug-in hybrid variant.

Mitsubishi might not have the same track record as the likes of Toyota when it comes to hybrid motoring, but this Outlander hits the ground running with boasts of 100-plus mile fuel economy figures and ultra low CO2 ratings.

Mitsubishi has opted for a petrol-electric set-up, which is claimed to offer high levels of refinement along with the low running costs. The car's 2.0-litre engine partners with two electric motors – one at each end – to drive the Outlander.

All-wheel drive performance is retained despite the absence of a propshaft, while the car can automatically channel power where it's needed, such as a front-wheel drive mode for undemanding urban duties.

A press of a button transforms this Outlander into a surprisingly capable 4x4, proving no less able than its diesel-powered stablemates.

This activity-focused approach continues inside, where there's ample space for five in the practical cabin. The hybrid hardware has resulted in the removal of the regular car's third row of seats, but the upshot is a flat, wide load space.

The Outlander's streamlined exterior is a welcome change to the usual rough and rugged theme demonstrated by many of its rivals. It's not all for looks alone, as this approach makes the Outlander a slippery beast – something that should help with its overall economy performance.

Famous more for purposeful off-roaders and turbo-nutter rally replicas, Mitsubishi doesn't have much of a track record when it comes to alternatively-fuelled transport. Thankfully the engineers in Japan have caught up quickly with the more switched-on European car makers, and the Outlander PHEV is a surprisingly accomplished first attempt.

Spacious

If the only complaint is that you sacrifice the regular Outlander's third row of seats to make way for the hybrid hardware, then Mitsubishi has little to worry about. The car's cabin is spacious and practical; there's ample oddments storage space, head and legroom fore and aft plus that previously mentioned wide, flat load space.

The Outlander's durable but classy cabin materials should easily resist the rigours of family life, while the powered tailgate is a nice, practical touch.

In real terms the hybrid Outlander behaves a lot like a regular model, although the quiet running on electric power is something of a giveaway. It's an easy car to drive irrespective of the power source in use, and the beauty of the hybrid is that it takes care of everything irrespective of the road conditions.

The regenerative braking can be dialled up so you almost don't need to touch the brake pedal – a useful characteristic for urban driving, although it does take a bit of getting used to.

What's also clever is this Outlander's off-roading skills, as the two electric motors work together to deliver a total-traction experience akin to that of a diesel Outlander but without the need for a bulky propshaft. Keeping you informed is a clear and colourful display detailing the car's various systems, from which way the energy is flowing to reams of data outlining fuel economy and eco performance.

Plug-in hybrids aren't known for being cheap, but Mitsubishi has dealt a blow to the opposition by pegging the Outlander's price to that of the comparable diesel-powered model.

There's a small line-up boasting good to generous levels of kit, while the main attraction for business users will be the car's tax-efficient properties: low running costs, zero congestion charge rating and ability to offset the car's cost against business activities. Factor in the potential ability to commute on electric power alone and charge up on low-cost electricity, and the hybrid Outlander starts to make sense.

There's no denying that the hybrid Outlander is likely to appeal mainly to business users. If you want family-friendly practicality, the ability to go off-road and tow, plus minimise your tax outlay, this petrol-electric plug-in Outlander deserves serious consideration too. You'll need to do the sums but, with a modest asking price compared to its rivals, there's every chance it'll trump a diesel SUV in terms of running costs if you spend a lot of time in the city.

This car summed up in a single word: Advanced.

If this car was a horse it would be a dark one – with the potential to upset the competition.

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Marque sees an increase in lead over nearest rival

By Bill McCarthy

UK market leader Ford recorded year-over-year increases in its total vehicle sales and share in April, and extended its sales lead over its nearest rival to more than 11,000 units, according to the official sales figures from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

Ford recorded total vehicle sales of 31,055, a 15.5 per cent share, up 0.6 percentage points compared with April 2013.

Ford Fiesta and Focus are the number one and two best-selling cars. Ford Transit and Transit Custom are the commercial vehicle sales leaders.

Mark Ovenden, Ford of Britain chairman and managing director, said: "UK car sales are demonstrating a sustained, strong level of growth and, in this context, it is gratifying that Ford is maintaining its robust sales momentum through 2014, underlined by increased sales and share and beating overall market growth.

"Ford has its best-ever range of vehicles and it is extending its market footprint through a continued investment in exciting products, such as the Ford Transit, including the Tourneo range, and industry-leading technologies spearheaded by the multi-award-winning EcoBoost engine, which are delivered through the strongest dealer network in the UK."

The official figures released by the SMMT show total car sales in April were up 8.2 per cent to 176,820 units, compared with April 2013. Ford's April car sales of 25,843 were up 16.5 per cent. For the year to date (end April) total UK car sales were 864,942, up 12.5 per cent compared with 2013, while Ford car sales for this period were 120,719, up 13.3 per cent.

Best

With a total of 10,250 registrations, up 26.8 per cent compared with April 2013, the Ford Fiesta was the UK best seller – 4,948 sales and 2.8 percentage points of market share ahead of its nearest non-Ford rival. For the year to date, Fiesta sales are up 16.7 per cent at 49,490, compared with the same period in 2013.

Increases in Ford's retail and net fleet car sales for the year to date, compared with 2013, demonstrate the underlying commercial strength of Ford's UK business. Retail and net fleet sales were up from 51,880 and 28,298 to 56,603 and 34,112, respectively.

UK commercial vehicle (CV) sales for the year to date were 112,841, up 7.2 per cent, compared with the same period in 2013. Total sales of Ford CVs for the year to date were up from 24,659 to 24,989, compared with 2013.

Ford medium commercial sales, headed by the industry-leading Ford Transit and Ford Transit Custom, were 21,287 for the year to date up from 20,802. Ford Fiesta Van, Ford Transit Custom and Ford Transit were all leaders in their respective segments in April and for the year to date.

Ford of Europe is responsible for producing, selling and servicing Ford brand vehicles in 50 individual markets and employs approximately 47,000 employees at its wholly-owned facilities and approximately 67,000 people when joint ventures and unconsolidated businesses are included.

In addition to Ford Motor Credit Company, Ford Europe operations include Ford Customer Service Division and 22 manufacturing facilities (13 wholly owned or consolidated joint venture facilities and nine unconsolidated joint venture facilities).

The first Ford cars were shipped to Europe in 1903 – the same year Ford Motor Company was founded. European production started in 1911.

For more information regarding Ford's products, please visit www.ford.co.uk

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Hyundai i20

Personal Contract Purchase Example
i20 Classic 1.2 3dr

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Hyundai Deposit Contribution	£250.00
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Amount of Credit	£6,463.50
Interest Charges	£642.50
Optional Final Payment	£4,250.00
Total Amount Payable	£9,337.50
Fixed Rate of Interest	3.04%
Duration of Agreement	2 years
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Models shown: i10 S 1.0 at £8,495 OTR in Pure White solid paint at no extra cost. i20 Classic 1.2 3dr at £8,695 OTR (includes £1,400 customer saving) in Electric Red solid paint at no extra cost. On the road (OTR) prices shown include customer saving discounts where applicable, VAT where applicable, delivery, vehicle first registration fee, number plates and 12 months' Road Fund Licence. *5.9% APR available on all Hyundai i10 and i20 models. At the end of the Personal Contract Purchase there are 3 options: (i) Renew: Part exchange the vehicle, where equity is available, (ii) Retain: Pay the Optional Final Payment to own the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Further charges may be made subject to the condition of the vehicle. Terms and conditions apply. Finance subject to status. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantees/Indemnities may be required. Hyundai Motor Finance RH1 1SR. We can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers. We may receive a commission from them for the introduction. All offers, finance and savings are subject to availability and are only available to private retail customers on new cars purchased and registered in the UK (excluding Channel Islands or Isle of Man), between 3rd April and 30th June 2014, inclusive, sourced through Hyundai Motor UK Ltd or its authorised dealers. Offers are not available for customers under the Hyundai Affinity Programme. 5 Year Warranty terms and exclusions apply. Please see www.hyundai.co.uk or ask your local Dealer. Fuel consumption: figures shown are based on official EU test figures. These are to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not reflect all driving results. **Free MOT Offer expires 31/12/2014.

Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai i10 S 1.0: Urban 47.1 (6.0), Extra Urban 70.6 (4.0), Combined 60.1 (4.7), CO_2 Emissions 108 g/km. Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai i20 Classic 1.2 3dr: Urban 46.3 (6.1), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2), Combined 57.6 (4.9), CO_2 Emissions 114 g/km.

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CALL DEAN! Business/Domestic, Deliveries/Relocation/full house 1 item.07429 453209 / 01902 830870 01384 940260 / 01922 263460.

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4 Pets & Animals

pets corner

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KITTENS 7 weeks old, fully litter trained, £10 each to ensure good homes. 0121 533 4888, 07791 427217.

LABRADOR PUPS KC Reg, 1 Golden/4 Black Boys, £500. 1 Golden / 3 Black Girls £550. Both parents are Family pets. Deposit secures. Ready w/c May 26. 07809 239483. 01922 418926.

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£60
07966 274558.

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1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

commercial premises sale / let

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business directory

commercial premises

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6 Property

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HEDNESFORD FURNISHED shared accommodation, near bus and rail, references essential, suit professional lady. 01543 422996.

ONE AND THREE BED FLATS, Tipton. DSS considered. 07961 301577 or 07906 878175.

TWO BED Refurbished flat, Willenhall. The Pinnacle. To view Call 01952 616756 or 07870 333516.

UNFURNISHED 3 bed house, DG, CH, good order, Dora Street, Walsall. 07952 445501.

WEDNESBURY 3-bed driveway, DG, GCH, new kitchen. £525pcm. 07460 334287.

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

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7 Jobs

building & construction

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engineering

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motor trade

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nursing & carers

TIPTON HOMECARE LTD require Community Care Workers. Applicants must be honest, trustworthy and reliable and CRB checked. Hours to suit individuals, evenings /weekends, full / part time staff. Driver preferred but not essential. Areas to be covered Tipton, West Bromwich, Wednesbury, Great Barr and Dudley. Please contact Stuart Higgins 0121 557 3649 or email stuart.higgins@tiptonhomecare.co.uk

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8 Motoring

cars over £1500

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£19,400 ono.
07966 318 335

FORD FOCUS STYLE TD Estate, 2008, blue, 56,000 miles, taxed, MoT, good condition, £4,500. o.n.o. 07866 189308.

HONDA CIVIC 2.2 TD 56 5 door, metallic grey, FSH, 6 months tax, 12 months MoT, excellent condition, £4,300 ono. 07773 873844

MINI COOPER
2004, 44000 miles, white, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, aircon, alarm, sunroof, tax, one lady owner
£3,950
07760 885248

MUST BE SEEN

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2002. Two door.
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Panoramic sunroof.
Service history.
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Private plate.
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Willenhall.

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ECONOMICAL

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2011, 10,000 miles, black, fsh, long MoT, one owner, tax
£4,250
07973 121674

PEUGEOT 307 1.4 X-Line, 2007, genuine 30,000 miles, 1 owner, FSH, alloys, excellent condition, £3,600 ono. 07552 526868.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 CLUB, 2008, 37,000 miles, silver, air con, fsh, long MoT, metallic paint, tax, alloys, £3,500. 07854 259143.

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FORD FIESTA Flight, 1.2 3dr, 51 reg, metallic blue, 57,000 miles, 10 months MoT, excellent condition, only £795 ono. 07963 464780.

FORD KA 52 reg, 1 year MoT, 6 months tax, full history, CD player, 2 owners. Immacualte condition, £750. 07982 132 337.

FORD KA LUXURY 52 reg, red, EW, EM C/L, alloys, full leather interior, 11 months MoT, good clean car. £550. 07538 201939.

FORD MONDEO Titanium, TDCi 130, 5-dr hatch, 06 reg, FSH, MoT Jan 2015, 140K miles, good condition, £1,295 ono. 01543 506470.

MERCEDES 190E 1.8, 1991, 125,000 miles, 12 months MoT, tax, all service history, nice condition, £1,100. Walsall 07970 992872.

MERCEDES CLK230 coupe, auto, R reg., silver, fsh, tax, long MoT, 97,000 miles, alloys, good condition. £1,250 ono. 07847 456061.

PRIVATE NUMBER Plate. W5OOLF, on retention. Offers upto £750. 01922 412124 / 07795 296915.

RENAULT LAGUNA 2.0L
2004, 88,300 miles, light, FSH, MoT, auto, one owner, cruise control, tax, alloys, tow-bar.
£800 ono.
01952 210677

RENAULT MODUS 1.6, 12 months MoT, taxed, 66,000 miles, mint condition inside and out. £1,500 ovno. 01922 513627.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2, Design, 2004, MoT, 6 months tax, alloys, CD, elecs. Nice condition, £950. 07570 466779.

VAUXHALL CORSA Club, 1.2, 3dr, 2000 reg, in silver, only 65,000 miles, SH, MoT and Tax, excellent condition, £795. 07507 615478.

commercial vehicles

CITROEN BELLINGO 600D LX 2006, 67,845 miles, tax and MoT Dec 31, FSH. £2,000 ono.
07836 680675.

CITROEN RELAY 2003, 8 seater mini bus, disabled lift, high mileage, great runner, tax, MoT. £1,500 ono. 01543 879258 / 07736 366025.

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motorbikes

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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

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Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regeneration and Economy
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010

I hereby give notice that Sandwell Council has received the following applications under the planning acts which it is required to give public notice for the reason given at the beginning of each group of applications.

This is a major application.

DC/14/57036	Interserve Project Services Ltd	Ferndale Primary School Ferndale Avenue Great Barr Birmingham B43 5QF	Proposed two storey detached building containing: 9 classrooms, studio space and ancillary facilities. New car park, associated modifications to fencing, gates and access road, and landscaping.

This is a major application.

DC/14/57061	Mr Jag Mohan The (Dayal Bagh) Radhasomi Satsang Association of Europe	Birds Groupage Services Limited Offices Fronting Tat Bank Road Oldbury B69 4NQ	Change of use from offices to community use to include: computer training and education room, prayer hall, day care room for elderly, and management office, with associated parking to frontage.

This is a major application.

The proposed development does not accord with the provisions of the Development Plan in force in the area in which it is situated.

DC/14/57062	Mr Gulliston Khan	Former Barretts And Baird Site Harvills Hawthorn West Bromwich B70 0TG	Outline application (all matters reserved) for the development of up to 75 residential dwellings and small local shop units (revised outline application – DC/14/55424).

This is a major application.

DC/14/57049	Mr Gurmit Singh Safeway Construction Midlands Limited	Site Of 2-28 Witton Lane West Bromwich	Proposed development of 13 apartments (reserved matters application for appearance, landscaping and scale – pursuant to outline application DC/13/55779).

This is a major application.

DC/14/57063	Mr T Khan	M Firkin Limited Black Lake West Bromwich B70 0PJ	Proposed alterations and change of use of part of the former Firkin bakery site into a chicken plant (abattoir) with a small shop counter area for direct sales.

This is a major application.

DC/14/57059	Rebecca Fisher Ormiston Forge Academy	Ormiston Forge Academy Wrights Lane Cradley Heath B64 6QU	Variation of condition 2 of planning permission – DC/12/55398. Proposed use of astro turf pitch on Saturdays and Sundays between 10.00 and 16.00 hours for an extended period.

This is a major application.

DC/14/57051	Ms Sarah Chivers 24/7 Fitness Birmingham Ltd	Fitness First Health Club 477 - 489 Hagley Road Smethwick B66 4AU	Proposed removal of condition 2 of planning permission DC/13/55982 to allow continued use of premises as a gym 24 hours, 7 days a week.

Members of the public may inspect copies of these applications at Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE

(between 8.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Monday to Thursday, and 8.00a.m. to 5p.m. Friday) or via the Council's Public Access website (www.sandwell.gov.uk).

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications can do so via the website, or should write to the Council at the above address within 21 days (and 21 days for Listed Building or Conservation Area consent) of the date of this advertisement quoting the application reference number.

MR NICK BUBALO, Area Director – Regeneration and Economy

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to **Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk** (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

10 Personals

personal

ASIAN MALE 43 DIVORCED
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sports clubs

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general

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Lambert targets ex-Wolves ace Lescott

VILLA boss Paul Lambert has targeted Joleon Lescott as he asked Randy Lerner for one final favour.

The Scot is determined to recruit proven players this summer despite the uncertainty at a club, which is up for sale.

Wantaway chairman Lerner is reluctant to spend with the club on the market but Lambert believes they need at least three Premier League players to avoid serious struggle.

Ex-Wolves defender Lescott is available on a free transfer with his contract at Manchester City expiring next month.

Football

Besiktas also want the 31-year-old but while Lescott will have to take a cut from his £90,000-a-week to join Villa, Lambert will try to convince Lerner to fund a move.

The manager is unlikely to have more than £15m to spend but he will push to add some heavyweights to Villa's squad.

"It's up to me to go and get players I think this club deserves. Everything is open because of the 'for sale' aspect of it," he said. "This club's name alone will be half your selling point. The football club will still attract big players.

"Aston Villa will still attract big players. It has everything, it just needs that stability of what direction it's going to go in.

"As for bringing players in, well it's not going to be easy but I will do everything I can."

It is a departure from Lambert's previous policy of buying young and unproven players from the lower leagues and abroad.

Only Leandro Bacuna of last summer's buys was a limited success while big money signings Libor Kozak and Jores Okore suffered serious injuries. Nicklas Helenius is expected to leave while Aleksandar Tonev and Antonio Luna struggled in the Premier League.

Lambert was speaking for the first time since returning from America with chief executive Paul Faulkner after meeting Lerner last week.

He added: "These circumstances are extremely challenging as the club is for sale and as far as I know there is nothing imminent in terms of new ownership, but we're going to roll up our sleeves, prepare for the battle ahead and do our best by the club."

Players must lift the Villa, says Vlaar

RON VLAAR has admitted the Villa squad are in the dark over Paul Lambert's future but insists they must take responsibility to lift the club.

The boss was due to meet Randy Lerner in America for crisis talks after the owner confirmed his desire to sell.

Lambert has lost fans' faith after another season of struggle and is not expected to survive a takeover, should one happen this summer.

And captain Vlaar – who is in the provisional Holland squad for the World Cup – admitted he is in limbo.

He said: "I have no idea to be honest. I know the rumours but what can I say? We will wait to see what is happening.

"As players we have to look to ourselves and we realise it has to be better. We have to do our things on the pitch. I think he has been very important up until now.

"The last few months were really hard for everyone but we made it."

Villa lost 20 games in the Premier League – including seven of their last nine – to finish 15th and just five points above the relegation zone. " "We should be happy the season isn't two or three games longer," said the

New-look Halesowen beaten by local rivals

Halesowen 1st XI 194 Stourbridge 1st XI 195-5 (Stourbridge win)

STOURBRIDGE First XI leaped up from fifth to second position in division two of the Birmingham and District Premier league by beating local rivals Halesowen.

Needing to reverse an inconsistent form so far this season Stourbridge notched up an important victory.

They were up against a new-look Halesowen side with Faisal Shahid replacing Wes Griffiths at the helm.

Shahid called correctly at the toss and batted, hoping for a 200 plus total.

Pace man Matt Bradley made the early breakthrough for Stour with the score on 11 taking the wicket of Mohammad Shauib judged LBW for one.

Former Stourbridge player, No.3 Griffiths and the opener Kester Moseley took the score to 53 when Griffiths was caught off James Wood for 18, delighting Stour's players.

The biggest partnership of the innings was built between Mosley and Shahid before the skipper fell LBW to Audy Alexander for 22 in the 34th over with total on 104.

With a run rate just over three an over Stour's effort were paying off despite the two chances that went begging. Sixteen-year-old Dion Patel, No. 5, joined Moseley with a mission to accelerate run rate.

Patel, who was given a life early in his innings of 48, helped his team to a decent score.

Moseley was eventually out in the 37th over off the bowling of Bilal Hassan for

Cricket

62 off 68 balls leaving the home side 119-4.

Patel batting with the tail ensured his team survived the full 50 overs.

Stourbridge's opening partnership of 21 between Alex Bingham and Steve Game set the tone for their reply.

Bingham, who had played two consecutive square cuts off Dan Jones was first to depart ,with his score on 10.

He was caught in the slips on a rebound from the keeper as Jones got the better of Bingham.

Game and Richard Bradley batted for nine overs putting on 48.

The cautious Bradley was a victim of LBW to the spinner Zain Shahid for 27.

In the next over Game, who looked solid in defence, went in the same way off the bowling of Richard Brooker for 25.

New batsmen Alexander and Josh Banks were confronted with producing 127 off 19 overs for victory.

Both kept the score moving with classy boundaries before Banks, then Bradley Fell were out.

Alexander completed his 50 as he steered Stour home.

Froch razor sharp – spar partner Summers

Ricky Summers, left, has been sparring with world champion Carl Froch

RICKY SUMMERS has warned George Groves that Carl Froch is far from finished after sparring with the world champion as he prepares for this month's Battle of Britain.

The Black Country fighter has travelled to Nottingham to help put veteran IBF and WBA world super middleweight champion Froch, 36, through his paces ahead of the big rematch at Wembley on May 31.

Seven days later, Tipton's Summers steps through the ropes for a six-rounder as professional boxing returns to Dudley at the Venue.

And he is keen to show tough opponent Luke Allon he has added bite from training with 'The Cobra', who will put both belts on the line against Groves, six months after stopping the Londoner in a controversial clash in Manchester.

Summers said: "Carl is far from finished, take it from me. He's still got it and I can see his fight panning out like the last one, with Groves being stopped in the later rounds."

The 26-year-old added: "He's looked razor sharp in the gym, but I didn't feel like I was out of my depth being in the ring with him.

"He's showed me a lot of skills that I think will make me a better fighter. I wouldn't be up there sparring if it wasn't benefitting Carl. I am a tall, rangy operator ."

George find Kings too hot

Warwick & Worcester Premier Division 1
Kings Heath Park 222
The George 162

THE first team were well beaten by an in-form Kings Heath Park.

The George were only five shots down after the first four, Jamie Dunn (21-7) and Paul Greene (21-15) winning.

Kings Heath controlled the match after that and ran out winners by 60 shots with Marc Wilson (21-13) and Mick McGuinness (21-19) the only other George winners.

South Staffs Premier Division
The George 219
Chadsmoor 223

The second team lost a close match to a top quality Chadsmoor side.

The George were 18 up after the first four, Chris Lambert (21-9), Steve Fagan (21-16) and Martin McGuinness (21-19) winning. Wins in the middle four by Keith Walton (21-15) and Darren Wood (21-20) kept the lead at 16 but in the back four only Eric Winstone (21-18) won and Chadsmoor victorious by four shots.

Warwick & Worcester Alliance Division 2
The George 218
Acocks Green 194

The third team won a competitive match against Acocks Green by 24 shots.

Grappling with style of Mexico

A TOUCH of Mexico will be brought to the Black Country when an international pro wrestling night takes place this month.

Juventud 'The Juice' Guerrera will be coming to Willenhall for the Pro Wrestling bill at Gilbert's Club, Field Street, taking place on May 23.

He will join Walsall wrestler Matt Powell, known to his fans as Mad Dog Maxx, in the ring with Willenhall stars Kristopher Parr and Michael Jones, both aged 25.

Mr Powell, aged 29, said he hoped the event would be a hit.

Doors open 7pm and the show starts at 7.30pm.

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Big gap in league TV perks

WOLVES might be record-breaking League One champions – but they are paupers when it comes to this season's TV revenue.

The release of payments to Premier League clubs shows a huge contrast between the top flight and League One.

While Albion earned £8.648m from their nine live screenings this season and Villa £13.05m from their 16 appearances, Wolves earned just £135,000 for their five slots before the cameras.

Premier League clubs are paid up to £1m per live match screened, League One clubs receive just £30,000 as the home team and £10,000 as the visiting side. Albion's TV income and prize money amounted to £65.79m

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Brilliant game but the result

WEDNESBURY'S nail-biting Premier Division clash with Swindon was hailed by opposition captain Matt Bradley as one of the best he's ever played in.

But that was of little consolation to the Wood Green Road club after a 15-run defeat.

Bradley praised key bowlers Dan Wale and David Silcox after his men squeezed home with four balls to spare. They posted 272-9, then Silcox claimed 5-97 and Wale, who took the final wicket, 4-55, as Wednesbury were dismissed for 257.

"It was a brilliant game – one of the best I've been involved in," said Bradley.

"They went for it all the way and we got wickets at vital times. Dan was fantastic and David bowled superbly."

Silcox also made 63 with the bat while Wednesbury's Patrick Knott claimed 4-44 and Rishi Kumar 3-54.

Knott (56), Ranvir Singh (48), Waqas Ahmed (30) and Carl Baker (33) chipped in for Wednesbury's innings.

Beacon skipper Roger Fildes hailed opener Richard Wissing after the South African's century. He smashed 151 – and took 2-15 – as Beacon's 272-6 brought a winning draw against Hammerwich.

Wednesbury play Beacon on Saturday.

Year only for Albion strip

ALBION'S controversial break with tradition for next season's kit design will be for one year only.

The club, which has faced an angry backlash from supporters riled by reports of a "pinstripe" design for the 2014-15 campaign, have already ordered their colours for the 2015-16 campaign.

And the club will then be reverting to a much more traditional blue and white stripe with new kit suppliers Adidas.

Discontent with the rumoured design for next season prompteda Facebook campaign against the idea.

Speculation on the social networks have portrayed the new kit as abandoning the traditional thick blue and white stripe that has been Albion's trademark.

The club concede the kit is a departure but insist there has been no accurate depiction of its true design.

My time at Wolves was hell, says Bjorn

Football

WOLVES outcast Bjorn Sigurdarson has lifted the lid on his Molineux nightmare, calling it "hell".

The 23-year-old forward is currently resurrecting his career on loan at Molde, where he will be until their season ends in November.

Sigurdarson was one of four strikers head coach Kenny Jackett allowed to leave in January with Kevin Doyle, Leigh Griffiths and Jake Cassidy. And the Icelandic attacker, who has scored two goals in five games for the Tippeliga leaders, is relieved to be back on familiar territory after revealing he felt he had been made to feel inferior at Wolves.

"To show you actually can play, not just sit on the bench and such, is fantastic for me," said Sigurdarson, speaking in Norway.

"Of course you'll doubt yourself when you're not used, absolutely.

"When the manager doesn't like you, no matter what you do or how good you are in training, you get the message: 'No, you're not in the squad'.

"You're not good enough. Then you just want dig yourself under the grass. It becomes hell. So it was fantastic that Molde wanted me and that I got to go back."

For Wolves, Sigurdarson found the net twice in 16 league appearances last season, his final game coming in the 3-3 draw at Rotherham on December 21 after which he played no part in the following seven matches before his move.

Sigurdarson also admitted he struggled to make friends in the Wolves squad.

"I feel at home here," he said. "These are great guys. In England you don't make friends in the team. Here we eat together and socialise in the evenings. In England they maybe will go and have a drink together, but this is different. I feel my career is on the right track again."

Meanwhile, Wolves have started a coaching restructure which has left the futures of Steve Weaver and Mick Halsall shrouded in doubt.

The long-serving pair have been told by head of football development Kevin Thelwell that a 'process' has started in the coaching department of reducing the workforce and are set for a further meeting this week.". .

CRAIG HAPPY TO RETURN 'HOME'

CRAIG GARDNER has predicted returning 'home' will bring out his best after the former Villa and Birmingham midfielder sealed his free-transfer move to Albion.

Gardner put pen to paper on a three-year Hawthorns contract with a one-year option.

He passed his medical on Monday and will join the club officially on July 1.

And the 27-year-old, who is originally from Solihull, was released by Sunderland following three years on Wearside, reckons returning his native West Midlands will see him shine for the Baggies.

"It's a pleasure to be here," said the Brummie.

"It's a great club. I've got a lot of friends here and I'm just buzzing that I'm back at home in the Midlands where I enjoy my football the most and feel I play my best football.

Praying

"I was linked with West Brom previously and I was just praying it happened this time. Now eventually it has I'm over the moon.

"People say you have to be happy at home to be happy in your job – and when you've got your friends and family around you encouraging and supporting you then that's when you'll play your best football.

Gardner became Albion's first signing of the summer just four days after the club kicked off a major summer revamp by releasing five players in addition to the five loanees who have returned to their parent clubs.

Football

And the 2011 Carling Cup winner says former Blues team-mates Liam Ridgewell, who was among those released, and Ben Foster helped ease through his move to The Hawthorns along with the chance to link up again with former Black Cats team-mate Stephane Sessegnon.

"Fozzy is a good friend and it's the same with Ridgy as well," said Gardner.

"They've always said good things about the club. But they didn't need to sell it to me because I was already taken. It's a great place.

"Sess is a top player. I'm looking forward to playing with him again."

Gardner will meet his new team-mates for the first time when he reports for pre-season training in early July.

Director of football administration Richard Garlick is delighted to have strengthened the club's midfield options.

"Craig is someone we have followed for a long time and we are delighted to finally get him," he said.

"We tried to bring him here in the January transfer window but it did not work out."

Albion's first signing of the closed season Craig Gardner, the former Villa and Birmingham midfielder

Hurry up sale Villa warned

VILLA are still in limbo as Ken McNaught insisted the club will suffer if the uncertainty continues through the summer.

The claret and blue favourite reckons fans will become restless should the club not come up with a clear plan.

Boss Paul Lambert and chief executive Paul Faulkner are back in the UK after meeting with owner Randy Lerner in New York last week.

They are expected to reveal Villa's short-term plan soon after Lerner confirmed he will sell the club.

Lambert's spot is unclear, although he is expected to stay as manager for now.

"It's a worrying time for Villa fans at the moment," said McNaught, the 1982 European Cup winner, who also played for Albion in the mid-80s. "It has been tough for the last few seasons but the fans, to their credit, have continued to turn up every week to support the team. "They have been brilliant with the support they have shown but clubs can't expect that kind of loyalty forever, especially with everything which is going on."

Gera's goodbye to the Albion

HAWTHORNS hero Zoltan Gera has said a fond farewell to Albion insisting "I've enjoyed every minute".

The fans' favourite is one of 10 players to depart in a dramatic end-of-season clearout, bringing to an end a successful Baggies career.

"I enjoyed every minute I spent here," said the 35-year-old.

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